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No. 7784.—Vol. L. FRIDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 28, 1890. Price One Penny.

TO-NIGHT'S ENTERTAINMENTS.

DRURY LANE. (The National Theatre.)
EVERY EVENING, at 7.15, and EVERY MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, and SATURDAY at 1.30, AUGUSTUS HARRIS'S Pantomime, JACK AND THE BEANSTALK, produced on a scale of splendour surpassing in magnificence the displays offered to the public by Mr. AUGUSTUS HARRIS in previous years, and performed by a Company of Comedians each of whom is an acknowledged attraction in himself—Messrs. Nicholls, Leno, Lauri, junr., Griffiths Brothers, Conquest, Jun., Leopold Brothers, Payne, (Clown), and Campbell; Misses, Vernon, Faudelle, Ænea, Clay, and Duggan. Box-office open from 10 A.M. all day. LAST THREE WEEKS.

HAYMARKET THEATRE.
(Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. BERNHOM TREE.)
TO-NIGHT, at 8.30, A MAN'S SHADOW, by ROBERT BUCHANAN. Mr. TREE as LAROQUE Messrs. Fernandez, Kemble, C. Collette, E. M. Robson, Allan, Hargreaves, and LIVERSAGE. Misses Nellson, Miss Minnie Terry, Miss Norreys, and Mrs. Tree. Tagging, Gurney, Harwood; Miss Julia Neilson, Miss Minnie Terry, Miss Norreys, and Mrs. Tree. At 7.45, GOOD FOR NOTHING; Miss Norreys. Doors open 7.30. Box-office open 10 till 5. Stalls can also be booked by letter or telegram. Carriages, 10.45.—LYCEUM.

CRITERION THEATRE.
(Lessee and Manager, Mr. CHARLES WYNDHAM.)
THIS EVENING, at 8.30, OUR BOYS. Mr. David James, Mr. Leonard Boyne, Mr. Arthur Elwood, Mr. E. W. Gardiner; Mesdames Olga Brandon, E. Brunton, F. Frances, E. Wing. Preceded by, at 7.30, SWEETHEART, GOOD-BYE. Messrs. Scott Buist, H. Saker, G. Stanley, L. Chapuy; Mesdames E. Terris, E. Brunton, E. Vining. Doors open at 7.30. N.B.—MATINEE of OUR BOYS TO-MORROW (Saturday), at 2.30. Doors open at 2 o'clock.

GAIETY THEATRE.
TO-NIGHT, at 8 punctually, RUY BLAS AND THE BLASE ROUE. Miss Ellen Farren, Miss Marion Hood, Miss Sylvia Grey, Miss Linda Verner, Miss Blanche Massey, and Miss Letty Lind; Mr. Fred. Leslie, Mr. Fred. Storey, Mr. Dalton Somers. Doors open at 7.30.

TERRY'S THEATRE.
(Proprietor and Lessee, Mr. EDWARD TERRY.)
(Management, Miss GRAHAME.)
TO-NIGHT, at 9, NEW LAMPS FOR OLD. Messrs. W. S. Penley, Bernard Gould, W. Lestocq, and J. Kerr. Mesdames Grahame, Houston, and Gertrude Kingston. At 8.15 THE PARTING OF THE WAYS. Mesdames M. A. Giffard, Helen Leyton, Rose Dearing, Oscar Adye, and J. Nelson. Doors open at 8. Carriages at 11. Box Office open 10 till 5. Acting Manager, Mr. H. J. BECKWELL.

TOOLE'S THEATRE.
TO-NIGHT at 9, THE BUNGALOW, by FRED HORNER. The greatest success of modern times. Received with roars of laughter and thunders of applause. At 6.15, ISABEL. Doors open at 7.45. MORNING PERFORMANCE EVERY WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY at 2.15. Doors open at 2.

ADELPHI THEATRE.
(A. and S. GATTI, Sole Proprietors and Managers.)
THIS EVENING, at 8.0, GOOD DAY DAY. Immense success. 145th Time. Mr. George Alexander, Messrs. Marius, J. D. Beveridge, J. L. Shine, Lionel Rignold, W. L. Abingdon, Theo. Balfour, Bode, H. Russell, James Knight, W. Northcote, J. Northcote, &c.; Mesdames Alma Murray, Mary Reeve, Kate James, Charlotte Elliott, and Clara Jecks. Doors open at 7.0. THE MARRIED BACHELOR, at 7.15.

VAUDEVILLE THEATRE.
(Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. THOMAS THORNE.)
THIS EVENING, at 8, CLARISSA. Mr. Thomas Thorne, Messrs. T. B. Thalberg, Cyril Maude, Oswald Yorke, J. S. Blythe, Harbury, F. Grove, F. Gilmore, and Fred Thorne; Miss Winifred Emery, Mesdames Mary Collette, C. Owen, L. Bryer, F. Wyemin, Lily Hanbury, and Miss Banister. MATINEE of CLARISSA TO-MORROW (Saturday), at 2.30.

THE GLOBE THEATRE.
(Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. R. BENSON.)
THIS EVENING, at 8 (doors open 7.30), THE TAMING OF THE SHREW. Messrs. Arthur Forde, Stuart, Phillips, Gurney, Rous, Shaw, Benson, Weir, Howard, Grenville, Black, Athol Forde, Mesdames Benson, Grey, Hawkins, Denvil. N.B.—A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM EVERY EVENING, at 8 (Thursdays and Fridays excepted), and WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY MATINEES at 2.30.

PRINCESS'S THEATRE.
MASTER AND MAN.
THIS EVENING, at 7.45, Henry Pettitt and GEORGE R. SIMS' powerful play, MASTER AND MAN, in which the following distinguished artists will appear:—Messrs. Henry Neville, J. H. Barnes, Robert Pateman, Brandon Thomas, Sidney Howard, Scott Buist, Geo. Warde, Fred Shepherd, George Dalziel, E. Maynard, Webster Lawson; Miss Edith Bruce, Mrs. Frank Huntley, and Miss Bella Pateman. Doors open 7.15. Commence 7.45. Box-office (Mr. A. Frye) open daily from ten till five. Seats at all the libraries.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.
(Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Langtry.)
TO-NIGHT, at 8, AS YOU LIKE IT. Mrs. Langtry; Mesdames M'Neil, Lea, Lamb, Armbruster, &c.; Messrs. Cautley, Bourchier, Sugden, Everill, Fulton, Brodie, Forbes, Gay, Lewis, Cannings, Lawford, Grover, Lingham, Arncliffe, Erlynne, Yorke, &c. Doors open 7.30, carriages at 11.

PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE.
(Lessee and Manager, Mr. HORACE SUSSEX.)
TO-NIGHT, at 8.15, MARJORIE. Miss Phyllis Broughton, Mdme. Amadi and Miss Camille d'Arville; Messrs. C. Hayden Coffin, Joseph Tapley, Henry Ashley, Frederick Wood, Albert James, T. A. Shale, A. T. Hewson, and Harry Monkhouse. Preceded at 7.30 by ALL ABROAD. Morning Performance EVERY SATURDAY at 2.30. Telephone No. 3,700.

GARRICK THEATRE.
(Lessee and Manager, Mr. JOHN HARE.)
THIS EVENING, at 8, A PAIR OF SPECTACLES. Mr. John Hare, Mr. C. Groves, Mr. R. Cathcart, Mrs. S. Brough, Mr. C. Dodsworth, Mr. F. H. Knight, Mr. R. Harding, Mr. Byron, Miss Blanche Horlock, Miss F. Hunter, and Miss Kate Rorke. Preceded, at ten minutes past 7, by DREAM FACES. Mr. J. Forbes Robertson, Mr. G. Hough, Mr. S. Pringle; Miss Blanche Horlock and Miss Carlotta Addison (specially engaged) will appear. Doors open 7.40. Box-office open from 10 to 5. Acting Manager, Mr. C. G. COMPTON.

SHAFTESBURY THEATRE.
Messrs. E. S. WILLARD and JOHN LART, Lessees and Managers. Proprietor, Mr. JOHN LANCASTER.
THIS EVENING, at 8, THE MIDDLEMAN.
Mr. Willard, Messrs. Mackintosh, E. W. Garden, H. Cane, H. V. Esmond, Ivan Watson, Cecil Crofton, Royston Keith; Mesdames Maude Millett, Annie Hughes, E. H. Brooke, Annie Hill, St. Aubyn, Eva Moore, &c. Box-office now open daily, 10 to 5. Doors open 7.40. Carriages 11. Acting Manager, Mr. W. H. GRIFFITHS.—SHAFTESBURY THEATRE.

LYRIC THEATRE.
(Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. HENRY J. LESLIE.)
100th PERFORMANCE MONDAY NEXT, March 3rd, and TO-NIGHT, at 8.30, THE RED HUSSAR. Mesdames Marie Tempest, Birdie Irving, Maud Holland, H. Coveney, and Florence Dysart; Messrs Ben Davies, Alec Marsh, Albert Christian, J. Le Hay, Frank M. Wood, and Arthur Williams. Preceded at 7.30, by WARRANTED BURGLAR PROOF. MATINEE EVERY SATURDAY at 2.30.

COMEDY THEATRE.
TO-NIGHT and EVERY EVENING, at 9 P.M., the celebrated Comedy PINK DOMINOS, adapted by JAMES ALBERY, with powerful cast, including Messrs. Herbert Standing, Arthur Cecil, Mathews, A. Bourchier, &c., and C. H. Hawtrey; Mesdames Kolberg, Robertson, Gowell, Alma Stanley, and Rose Saker; preceded, at 8, by ONE SUMMER NIGHT, by F. W. Broughton. Box-office open daily from 10 A.M. to 10 P.M. Telephone, 5,764.

COURT THEATRE.
(Proprietors, Mrs. JOHN WOOD and Mr. ARTHUR CHUDLEIGH.)
TO-NIGHT at 9, 204th performance of AUNT JACK. Mr. Arthur Cecil, Mr. Weedon Grossmith, Mr. Eric Lewis, Mr. F. Mervin, Mr. Fred Cape, Mr. A. Appleworth, Mr. W. Phillips, Mr. F. Farren, Mr. Powell, Mr. Quinton; Miss Rosina Filippi, Miss Fleeton, Miss Wood, and Mrs. John Wood. At 8.15, TO THE RESCUE, Mr. R. Boleyn, Mr. F. Farren, Miss F. Hervieux and Mrs. Huntley. SPECIAL MATINÉES of AUNT JACK TO-MORROW and SATURDAY, March 8. Doors open at 2, commence at 2.30.

AVENUE THEATRE.
(Under the Management of Mr. GEORGE ALEXANDER.)
TO-NIGHT, at 8.15, FOOLS' MATE. At 9, DR. BILL.
Messrs. Frederick Terry, Nutcombe Gould, Benjamin Webster, George Capel, Henry Grattan and Albert Chevalier; Mesdames Robins, Carlotta Leclercq, Marie Linden, Mary Kingsley, Gracie Murielle, Laura Graves, Edith Kenward, and Fanny Brough. Doors open 7.45. MATINEE EVERY SATURDAY, and SPECIAL MATINÉES EVERY WEDNESDAY NEXT, March 5, at 2.30. Doors open 2 o'clock. Box-office open daily from 10 till 5. Business Manager, Mr. R. D'ALBERTON.

ALHAMBRA VARIETY THEATRE.
"ASMODEUS," at 9 o'clock, and "OUR ARMY AND NAVY," at 10.50. Signorina, Besone; Milles. Sarazon, Mora, Thuegate, and Spotti, and Signor De Vincenti. Varieties by BRUET and RIVIERE, the Sisters Lloyd, Marvello's Boarhounds and the Dog "Rags," the Albert and Edmunds' Troupe, Arthur Tinsley, Arthur Cooney, Marie Collins, the Eddy's Troupe, Lotto, Lilo, and Otto, and JAMES FAWN. Open 7.45 until 11.30.

EMPIRE THEATRE.
Commence at 8. Two Grand Ballets. At 9.0 THE PARIS EXHIBITION. At 10.30, A DREAM OF WEALTH, by M. KATTI LANNER. Music by M. Ludwig Wiedel. Milles. Palladino and Bertina de Sortis, Mlle. Guerrieri and Signorina Malvina Cavaliani. Grand Variety Entertainment. At 10, Miss Amy Roselle will recite THE SIEGE OF LUCKNOW, specially written for her by H. SAVILLE CLARKE, Esq. No free list.

ROYAL, Holborn.
GRAND HOLIDAY PROGRAMME.—Special engagement of Lockhart's performing Elephants. C. H. Macdermott, the popular actor and vocalist; Lydia Yeamans, queen of song; the Mannons, in a novel musical absurdity; Yositaro, the wonderful Japanese juggler; the Brantfords, American variety artists; Ottaway and Hooper; Abe Daniels, musical clown; Dora Fielding; Arthur Tinsley; Petrot, the marvellous mimic; May and Laverno, statuesque dancers; Sisa Torr; Deane Brand, operatic vocalist; Maura, equilibrist; H. Beresford, comic; Prof. Wingfield's Dogs; Fred Mitchell; Nelly Chapman; Ottoway and Pepper; and others.
EVENINGS at 7.30; SATURDAY MATINEES, 2.30. Prices of admission from 6d to £2 2s.

IS THE TRANSVAAL WORTH SWAZILAND?

So far so good. Lord KNUTSFORD has received the deputation claiming to represent "British interests" in Swaziland, and has succeeded in mixing with the courtesy of one who listens to arguments the stiffness, in due degree, of one who is prepared beforehand to discount them. After this, we hope the Government will not lose the chance afforded them by this question of striking a good blow for the cause of fusion in South Africa. We hope—but we do not feel at all sure. They seem to know what they ought to do. But will they dare to do it? What we fear is not that they will annex Swaziland themselves. The objections are too obvious, and are such as the man-in-the-street could easily grasp even without the aid of Mr. LABOUCHERE and his friends. The country would be not the least use to us; we have no right of way to it, except one where ten thousand fevers lurk in ambush; the administration, because isolated, would be expensive; there is no revenue to be got out of it to recoup the taxpayer's pocket; and there is a pretty kettle of fish awaiting settlement. Finally, the Boers would no more stand a great slice of Downing-street sovereignty being intruded into the middle of their Republic than we would stand President KRUGER's establishment in Wales. No; what we fear is not that the Government will annex, but that they will gravitate into some sort of half-baked compromise—some happy middle course, as they may conceive it, which shall hold the balance even, and elude the necessity of either offending the Boers or giving a handle for the hustings. They may, for instance, decide to split up the country, chequer it into Black and White, secure to the natives a nominal independence, and leave the Transvaal to govern the European population and to police the black. This or any other compromise of the same tenor combines the disadvantages of both alternatives. It will neither satisfy the Boers nor settle the country. It can only end, after a period of distracting disorders, in the Boers having to take over the whole country; and so that will come about with ignominy and hostility which might have been done with a grace and upon terms the most advantageous to England in South Africa.

The first thing is to see what is agreed on all hands. It is agreed that we have a duty to the Swazis. We, at least, are free of any suspicion of underrating the responsibilities of the Englishman in contact with the native races with whom he comes in contact. Swaziland is a native territory which has now reached that stage in the contact of barbarism with European civilization when it becomes necessary for some representative of the latter to step in and assume command. The question is, who is to do this? It may be—we do not think it is—our duty to Swaziland to take the burden on ourselves. It may be our duty—we think it is—to see that whoever else does it, does it upon a proper footing. It is not our duty, it is contrary to our duty, to prevent it being done. It is nonsense to talk of maintaining the independence of the Swazis. The deputation knew that well enough in their hearts, and even let the admission escape their lips. Mr. DE KNUTSFORD caught up the slip with a correction. "It must come to sovereignty in the end," said Mr. DE STEDDINGK; and then added, rather lamely, "I meant, preserve the independence." We now notice also that a writer in the *National Review*, who "can see no reason in the world why that country should be incorporated in the Transvaal," then proceeds to propound its incorporation with Natal. How the colonists in Natal may feel about such an accession to the black sea of native population with which they are already swamped, we do not know. The point is the admission that Swazi independence is now an impossible dream. We talk about "taking the country": the truth is there is nothing worth having left to take. King UMBANDINE has made away not only the earth, but everything that is on and under the earth, and that two or three times over. That lamented monarch's mixed policy of monopolies and Dry Monopole has left the country like a house that is mortgaged to the chimney pots, or rather one over which a drunken and dishonest owner has contracted and re-contracted bills of sale. There will be stiff work for the bailiffs. But the for Boer bailiffs there will be some *quid pro quo*. They want the country for grazing; they want it for sentiment, because they are not cut off everywhere else; they want it because it is, if not a black island, at least a black continent, surrounded on three sides by themselves; they want it because it lies between them and a potential seaport—which, by the way, would cost more thousands to construct than they are likely to spend, and which, when constructed, would be a vantage ground for every English gunboat. We, on the other hand, want railways for our neighbouring colonists, elbow-room for our Chartered Company, and advantages for our countrymen in the Transvaal which will enable them to secure at once their prosperity, and, through it, that bloodless predominance which means the Anglicization in the near future of the Transvaal itself and Swaziland to boot. It is a splendid opportunity for inaugurating the new epoch of friendship between Boer and British in South Africa, by abandoning the obsolete policy of thwarting and interning the half-reconciled malcontents whom we estranged from our rule. We are asked to neglect it, and *cui bono?* It is to be made an investor's question. Be it so. We have, say, four millions in Swaziland. But in the Transvaal we have twenty millions in the Witwatersrandt alone. The Transvaal is a country as large as France, and the richest in South Africa. The question for the Government is simply this. Is the Transvaal worth Swaziland?

MARK TWAIN ON TENNYSON.

BY THE HON. REGINALD B. BRETT.

NOTHING is so easy to compose as cheap satire. Not every one can be Voltaire. But there seems no particular reason, to judge by the latest example of his wit, why every writer should not be a Mark Twain. We are told that if we desire to understand what the mass of men who speak English are thinking, as opposed to those who care about what they think they ought to be thinking, we must look to the last published work of Mark Twain. We are expected, it seems, to accept that work not as a jocular impertinence, but as a profound political allegory. We are assured that "Mark Twain gets directlier at the heart of the masses than any of the blue-china set of mimminy-pimminy criticasters." The ideal, then, which is now recommended to "the heart of the masses" is a Boss Mark Twain, dragging ignominiously from the saddle Sir Galahad, the knight without reproach, by means of a lasso. What are the crimes of Sir Galahad, as judged by the civilization of the nineteenth century? He typifies the "vast design" of the barbaric Arthur, that design—

> To reverence the King, as if he were
> Their conscience, and their conscience as their King,
> To break the heathen and uphold the Christ,
> To ride abroad redressing human wrongs,
> To speak no slander, no, nor listen to it,
> To lead sweet lives in purest chastity,
> To love one maiden only, cleave to her,
> And worship her by years of noble deeds,
> Until they won her; for indeed I knew
> Of no more subtle master under heaven
> Than is the maiden passion for a maid.

This is the ideal which the most recent development of Yankee wit enjoys strangling with a lasso. The quest of the Holy Grail was the symbol—in the old romance—of individual effort to arrive at perfection in personal life, to attain to high, unselfish, irreproachable conduct. And this is how it strikes Mark Twain in his rôle of teacher of the masses:—"The boys all took a turn at the Holy Grail now and then. It was a several years' cruise. They always put in the long absence, swooping round in the most conscientious way, though none of them had any idea where the Holy Grail really was. Every year expeditions went out holy grailing, and next year relief expeditions went out to hunt for them. There were worlds of reputation in it, but no money." This refined piece of satirical writing is the nineteenth-century gloss upon the old Malory tradition, and the "vast design" of Arthur. There is yet another obviously desirable trip for Mark Twain's Yankee into the region of idealistic romance. It would doubtless thrill the heart of the masses to read a description of his visit to Galilee in the reign of Archelaus, and to have the benefit of a Yankee's reflection upon the utterly unpractical discourse delivered on a certain mountain—of which also it might truly be said that "there were worlds of reputation in it, but no money."

The welfare of the common man is said to be the supreme assertion of Mark Twain's philosophy, and in the interests of the "common man" we are asked to substitute "Innocents Abroad" for the "Pilgrim's Progress" and this new book for Spenser's "Faery Queen" or for the noble pathos of "Don Quixote." And what, after all, is this humorous and original "object lesson in Democracy"? Because Monarchy and aristocracy have not fulfilled their uses in certain spheres of human action, therefore at all times and under all conditions they were "an insult." And because the

FOOTBALL NOTES.

One cannot but sympathise with the Rugby Union committee in their difficult task of finding a fifteen to beat Scotland with to-morrow. After more trial matches than have ever been played in one season, they found themselves little better off than they were in October. The behaviour of the Southern forwards in the two North and South matches led to the belief that the English team would be at any rate strong in scrummagers. But the disaster of Dewsbury and the collapse at Bradford have quite overthrown this notion. In fact, the later trials have quite contradicted the testimony of the earlier ones, and the net result is nothing but perplexity.

* * * * *

In choosing the team for to-morrow, the selectors have apparently taken counsel of despair. Five Yorkshire forwards who played on the losing side either at Richmond or Manchester have been admitted, with Bonsor, an old International half-back, who did not even find a place in his county team, and Aston, a three-quarter who was not thought good enough for any of the trial games. It is a pity that Stoddart, who was hurt last week, has not recovered sufficiently to be able to play, as he is without question the finest three-quarter-back in England. As it is, our hopes must rest on the forwards. It is quite possible that they may, like the Irish forwards on Saturday last, be strong enough to beat the Scotchmen, but I do not feel particularly sanguine about it.

* * * * *

The game between the Champion County (Yorkshire) and the rest of England, last Saturday, was a very exciting one. Each side scored in turn until a goal and a try stood to its credit, but near the finish the Yorkshire forwards carried everything before them, and the County won by a goal and three tries to a goal and one try. Yorkshire has in two seasons only lost one match, and this one was against the rest of England last year. It would almost seem that a good county team or even a first-rate club team is stronger than the scratch fifteens that are chosen for international matches.

* * * * *

The Football Association Cup ties are as often decided by the Council, or its committees, as by the result of the matches. It is becoming almost the exception for the losing team not to protest. And when a club refrains from making an appeal to the Association it earns commendatory paragraphs in the Northern press for its self-sacrifice. Two protested ties were re-played last Saturday. Wolverhampton Wanderers repeated their victory over Stoke by just double the score of the first match, but in the other tie Notts County reversed results by defeating their former conquerors—Sheffield Wednesday. The latter thereupon protested against the winners because some of its players had been guilty of some infringements of the rules of the competition, with the result that the teams have to meet for the third time. Notts will not now be permitted to play the three offending members, and their team will consequently be greatly weakened, so that the Sheffield club should obtain an easy victory.

* * * * *

Oxford and Cambridge are words to conjure with. No matter in what branch of sport the rivals are engaged, an interesting struggle fought out on fair and honourable terms is sure to take place. It is therefore no matter for surprise that some four or five thousand spectators mustered at the Universities' London headquarters, the Queen's Club, to watch the Association match on Saturday. The play was hardly up to the average of former years, but still it was very interesting, while towards its close it became actually exciting. Oxford had slightly the best of the play until they scored the first goal of the match. There was then but a little more than a quarter of an hour to play, but during that short period Cambridge worked with a will, and their forwards, showing great combination, quickly scored three times, and won by three goals to nil.

* * * * *

Kennington Oval was well patronised notwithstanding the big attendance at West Kensington. The attraction was the match between the Third Lanark, who last year won the Scottish Cup, and the Corinthians. The latter had only about half of its best eleven playing, and as one or two vacancies had to be hastily filled at the eleventh hour the team was, for a Corinthian one, very weak. Thanks, however, to the pluckly play of the brothers Walters at backs and Moon in goal, the Scotchmen had all their work cut out to win by two goals to nil, which was the score at the finish. Some of the Third Lanark players were guilty of most discreditable conduct—pushing, tripping, and hacking their opponents most persistently, and it was only because the referee's forbearance was greater than most men's that they were not ordered off the field.

M.P.

Church is not sufficiently catholic to embrace the genius of Mark Twain it is therefore "tainted" and "accursed."

I am not concerned to defend kingship. It has its vices and follies, as other institutions have, even though they are American. It may be absurd that men should show reverence to a Sovereign who happens to typify the commonwealth in which Britons over the surface of the globe are bound together into a nation; a Sovereign, too, who happens to form a link between statesmen of all political parties and of world-wide fame who have ruled our race during half a century. But there is nothing more inherently ridiculous in such homage than for thousands of respectable Americans to pass one by one before an excellent but obscure solicitor and his wife, and to greet them with such effusive warmth that the lady's right hand is now said to require a glove two sizes larger than her left. If by aristocracy is meant the setting apart of certain families, as the Levites were set apart, and their endowment with certain privileges, doubtless, under existing conditions in Western Europe, this plan—which also had its uses—is ceasing to be desirable. But if modern science, to which Mark Twain so freely appeals when it suits him, teaches one lesson more clearly than another, it is the value of pedigrees not only in horses, but in every species of the animal republic (kingdom in this connection being, it is conceded, an obviously obsolete word). It is true that no people on earth, except the Austrians, are so tiresome about their pedigrees as the "First Families" in America. As to the Church, it is as Cardinal Newman wrote: "Not a man in Europe now, who talks bravely against the Church, but owes it to the Church that he can talk at all." Mark Twain possibly believes that only Popes and Prelates tyrannize and persecute. Yet when the younger Pliny governed Bithynia, and appealed to Trajan for instructions how to deal with the Christians—that strange folk which clung to a "depraved and extravagant superstition"—he was told to let them live in quiet if possible. But it was not possible. And why? Because of the "great hostility of the common sort to them." It is a lamentable admission, but seemingly a fact, that the "common man," like priests, and kings, and aristocrats, is made of common clay, and has been known to take unchastened joy in "Skeleton Armies."

After all, to despise the past, to desire to break altogether with the past, to mock at the immortal dead, and to deride the aspirations of noble spirits, is not necessarily characteristic of democracy. That would be to mistake one short mad hour of revulsion in France for the lessons of ages. Men of our race—the common men of our race—love the traditions of their own people. The day they cease to respect their forefathers they begin to cease to be a nation. Mark Twain believes that no "real lady" made her appearance till the nineteenth century—shade of Lucy Hutchinson! and countless others, who were the mothers of our people and also of his. Is it not a fact, by the way, that the coarseness of language and too great freedom of utterance which is said to have reappeared among educated women are generally, and for obvious reasons, attributed to the young American wives who so largely, of late years, have been imported into England?

If inequality is a vice inherent in European nations, America is not free from it. In England a man's name may have what is termed a handle to it, but it affects very little his human relations with men who have not. Whereas in America, men with white faces, even in the sacred State of Massachusetts, refuse to sit at table or work at a common task with men whose faces happen to be black.

If cruelty has obtained in European struggles for causes which appear to us, judging with fuller light, inadequate or vain, it must not be forgotten that in America the most savage war of modern times—in which thousands of helpless prisoners were starved to death on one side, and wounded men crawling from the field of battle were shot in cold blood on the other—was relentlessly waged between men of one race and one speech.

If in King Arthur's mythical land the churl was a slave, how many centuries have passed since a man could call himself a slave who stood on English soil? Yet not thirty years ago men and women and children were bought and sold under those institutions and in that land which Mark Twain has elected odiously to compare with ours.

In fact, Mark Twain might have begun his "object lessons" at home. He might generously leave to us for a short while longer our ideals. In Europe, though monarchy is a taint, there are still monarchs—such as the old Emperor of Germany and Victor Emmanuel—typifying the unity of their respective fatherlands, who inspire enthusiasm. There are, though aristocracy is an insult, men whose forefathers have had the misfortune to be distinguished, who themselves by their own merits yet command respect. England still produces heroes, whose lives are fashioned after the "vast design" of Arthur. The Catholic Church still numbers among her votaries both men and women who are martyrs and saints. In the lives of Gordon, of Henry Lawrence, of Father Damien, of Sister Rose Gertrude "there were worlds of reputation, but no money." Plato—whose testimony, to be sure, is two thousand years old, and who was not familiar with the telephone—observed that in a State you cannot have in the citizens the love of wealth and the spirit of moderation: one or the other will have to be disregarded. Seemingly, that is the case. Moderation—even in criticism, even in the vein of satire—is inconsistent with materialism in its American development. But Mark Twain does not represent America—not the America of Walt Whitman, of Russell Lowell, or even of Bret Harte. Theirs is the democracy intent upon "levelling up," upon helping the individual onward towards what is noblest and best, upon branding the mind of every man with a sense that he is not outside the "vast design" of Arthur. If America has any future worthy of the name, if she is to have her crowded hour of glorious life, if she is to take rank with Athens, or Rome, or England, rather than with Babylon, it is to such teaching as theirs, and not to Mark Twain's, that she will in great measure be indebted.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE JUDGES AND THEIR FIGURES.

To the EDITOR *of the* PALL MALL GAZETTE.

SIR,—On reading Lord Selborne's speech, it will be observed that he refers to the figures set forth in the Report of the Commission relating to the proportion of agrarian crimes to evictions during the two periods 1849-52 and 1879-82, and adopts the finding that the difference can only be accounted for by the action of illegal organization and conspiracy. It appears to me that both the diminution of evictions and the increase of crimes may well be to some extent due to the fact that the immense number of evictions during the earlier period on the one hand not only left fewer for subsequent eviction, but also drove many more, from fear of a similar fate, to leave their native land, and, on the other hand, further embittered the feelings of those who remained against the class whose members they with good reason looked upon as their greatest oppressors.—Yours faithfully,

X.

THE BIRDS AT SOUTH KENSINGTON.

To the EDITOR *of the* PALL MALL GAZETTE.

DEAR SIR,—I should be obliged if you would allow me to correct an inaccuracy in your "South Kensington" article of February 22. The great eagle owl (Bubo maximus) there referred to was mounted by Mr. E. Bartlett, while residing with his father at the "Zoo," and exhibited jointly with other cases by Mr. A. D. Bartlett at the Exhibition of 1862. It was purchased by Mr. G. R. Gray from Mr. E. Bartlett at the close of the Exhibition. A curious omission occurs on the medal awarded to the above exhibits; the inscription running "A. D. Bartlett" instead of "A. D. Bartlett and Son," as should have been the case. The official catalogues, however, give the real facts. The excellence of Mr. E. Bartlett's taxidermy is well known; and it is only fair that he should have the credit of his good work in the present instance.—I am, &c.,

E. B. TITCHENER.

5, Museum-terrace, Oxford, Feb. 26.

OCCASIONAL NOTES.

The wisest word said about the Western Australia Bill last night came from Mr. Bryce. There is only one respect in which the situation now is different from the situation last year, but this one thing makes—as we said some time since—if not all the difference, at least a very great difference. We refer, of course, to the approaching Federation of Australia, with regard to which Mr. Bryce spoke as follows:—

> With the probable advent of that government, it was deserving of careful consideration whether the management of those remaining territories might not be better undertaken by a responsible federal government for the whole of Australia or Australasia.

But the Federation is still in the future, whereas some decision with regard to the vast territory known as "Western Australia" has to be come to at once. It remains as absurd as ever to hand over to a handful of colonists settled on a fringe of coast a vast territory as large as British India. The reservation of territory—either by a lateral line (as proposed in the bill) or longitudinally (as would probably be better)—is absolutely necessary. But the objections of the colonists would be mitigated if it were understood that the control of a Federated Australia might in time be substituted for that of the Colonial Office.

Who ought to be hanged? Mr. Arthur O'Connor was quite right in hinting that this is the first question suggested by Mr. Stanhope's statement on the Barracks last night. The British Empire spends an enormous sum every year on its army. Yet here is a Secretary of War calmly getting up in his place and announcing, as if it were the most natural thing in the world, that the accommodation of this army is (1) pestilential to the health of the troops, (2) grossly extravagant; (3) fatal to military efficiency; and (4) incompatible with proper concentration. In other words, we are taxed for an army, and the spenders of the taxes have used them in a way which is detrimental to all the purposes for which the army exists. Mr. Stanhope is so far entitled to credit for trying to put things right; but we shall never have any security against similar abuses until we are able to settle direct responsibility upon somebody or other for allowing things to go wrong.

Even now there is nothing to show that Mr. Stanhope has gone far enough. Mr, Campbell-Bannerman went to the root of the matter when he asked whether this overhauling of barrack accommodation was in relation with any fixed standard of military strength, and (he should have added) any well-thought-out scheme for its distribution. We do not indeed endorse Mr. Campbell-Bannerman's fallacy that a stronger navy should necessarily involve a weaker army. But unquestionably the relation of each arm to the other should be carefully thought out, and the distribution of the army throughout the Empire should be settled in concert with the naval authorities. Mr. Stanhope says "the Government must keep its responsibility in its own hands." But is it alive to that responsibility?

Mr. Samuel Smith is not, we believe, in favour of restricting the hours of adult labour in this country. But circumstances alter cases, and last night he addressed a long question to the Under-Secretary of State for India about the condition of the unfortunate Bombay operative. "Is he not a man and a brother," asked Mr. Smith, "and does he not work 80 hours a week, while the English operative only works 56½ hours?" Sir John Gorst's answer was conclusive. The Indian adult male is as free from legal restrictions on his hours of labour as is the English adult male. The Under-Secretary of State might, however, have added, that the word "work" means very different things to the Indian and to the English operative. The Indian operative will interrupt his work for a smoke or even a doze whenever the fancy takes him, and every month is broken with frequent religious holidays. His eighty hours are probably less exhausting to him than forty hours to the English operative. But the object, of course, of the Lancashire philanthropy in this matter is to get rid of Bombay competition.

As a matter of fact, however, there is at the present moment, as Sir John Gorst told the House last night, a bill before the Viceroy's Council for amending the Indian Factory Act. The bill proposes to raise the age of employment for children from seven to nine (the age is fixed at ten in England) and to limit the hours of labour of women to eleven hours per diem. But this measure will not seriously help Lancashire. For it happens that the number of women and children employed in proportion to male operatives is steadily declining in India. So that we get back to the position that if the competition of one part of the Empire with another is to be restricted, it must be done by limiting the hours of labour of adult males. On this point India may fairly claim to wait until Mr. Samuel Smith is converted to the views of Mr. Cuninghame Graham.

Mr. Raikes is a sanguine man. Speaking at Runeaton last night, he said:—

> If the country were to be challenged for its verdict, under the circumstances and upon the facts he had put before them that night, there would be found to be such a majority in favour of the present Government as would sweep the Irish party out of the House of Commons.

The "circumstances and facts" are the findings of the three judges. If these are going to have such a prodigious effect at the general election in Ireland as to sweep the eighty-five Parnellites from the scene, how does Mr. Raikes explain the fact that his side cannot even now summon up courage to contest a single Parnellite seat? To "sweep out" eighty-five constituencies is a big order. Why in the world did not Mr. Raikes's friends begin when they had a chance with West Waterford?

In one matter, at any rate, the present Ministers are thoroughly national. In dealing with the *Times*, they wobble as badly as the English climate, and the spirits of the shareholders in that paper must go up and down as suddenly as the mercury in our thermometer. First we had Mr. Smith barely able to find words to express his "detestation" of the *Times*. There was not much chance of a National Subscription (let alone a Parliamentary grant) after that, for Mr. Smith expressly said that he spoke "on behalf of all those on his side." But Mr. Smith spoke, it is clear, without authority, for Mr. Chaplin next went down to Cambridge, and declared that "upon the whole" the *Times* "deserved the thanks of all good and honest people in this country." After that the mercury went up with a rush, of course, and the National Subscription seemed once more to be within grasp. But there is a frost again this morning, for here is Mr. Raikes speaking as follows:—

> He did not wish to mince words in dealing with this matter. He thought that those who were responsible for the conduct of the *Times* in connection with it deserved the severest condemnation. He thought that the attempt to damage a political opponent by odious charges, supported upon evidence which would not bear scrutiny, was one of the very basest features of our times.

There will be no subscription from Mr. Raikes: that is clear.

SOME OF THE MAGAZINES FOR MARCH.

"THE CENTURY."

THE autobiography of Mr. Jefferson still leads off the *Century*. It contains some details of managerial quarrels, is illustrated by some excellent portraits, and relates what Sothern felt on taking up the part of Dundreary, which was afterwards to bring him so much fame. "Glasgow: A Municipal Study," by Dr. Albert Shaw, is interesting as being an extension of an interview which appeared in the *Pall Mall Gazette* some months ago. "The Sun Dance of the Sioux" and an open letter on Ibsen are also noteworthy in a number which scarcely seems to touch *Century* high-water mark.

"CORNHILL."

Fiction begins and ends the March number of Mr. Payn's magazine—the long in the shape of the editor's serial, for a start, and the short, under the title "Sefton's Servant," in the concluding pages. Sandwiched between, an article on "The 'Bus," as developed in London since 1829, and an amusing collection of French-English "eccentricities, are, perhaps, most worthy of attention. From the latter we take the following extract:—

> In 1867, when the Exhibition filled Paris with foreigners, of whom the English were not the fewest, a French writer sat down to produce a guide-book. He meant it exclusively for "highlife" and the fashionable world, but his mastery over the English language was hardly equal to his daring in the use of it. In his preface he cheerfully announced himself and his guide-book as the "vade-mecum de tous les snobs." This indeed is, as a contemporary French baron curiously remarks, "*Oh! quite!! too!!! utter!!!!*" With the everyday life of our streets and the ways of the London "cokneys" the Frenchman is just as familiar as with "highlife extra cream." In the old days he used to know all about "Waushall," or "Fauhall," and "Ranelash;" now he is equally at home in "Saint-John-Wood," "Cambden Town," "Saint-Gilles," or the "Hay-Marbret." He studies our public charities and can tell us all about our "alm'shouses;" he investigated the doings of the defunct Board of Works, and is great upon the "metropolitan-building-sact."

"LONGMAN'S MAGAZINE."

"How we failed to get to St. Hilda" and Mr. Grant Allen's "Cap d'Antibes" will interest the intending traveller; while Mr. Anstey's "Good Little Girl" is a lightly-sketched fancy which is not without its lesson. Mr. Henry J. Barker contributes some more "Curiosities of Schoolboy Wit," which are so amusing as to tempt us to play the part of Autolycus. Here are some extracts:—

From an essay on "Kindness"—

> "By being kind a person may rise in the world, as the following story will show:—Mr. Smith was a poor boy. At first he was a paper boy. One day, while he was selling his papers, he caught sight of a little girl trying to get across the road, but could not for the number of carriages. He at once went to her assistance, and carried her safely across the road. A little while after this Mr. Smith had a paper stall on nearly every railway station in England." I may state that I was so struck with this really touching anecdote of the present leader of the House of Commons, that I experienced a strong desire to learn whether its essential outlines were authentic. "This pretty story," I said, tapping with my fingers the bottom paragraph of his composition exercise, "relating to Mr. W. H. Smith, Member of Parliament—where did you get it from, my lad?" "Please, sir, I heerd of it, sir!" the boy answered immediately. "You heard of it, did you? And who told it you, my lad? Come, try to think." However, it was of no use. I only elicited from him that he had "known it for ever so long," and that "a lot of boys knew of it as well." And there I was reluctantly compelled to let the matter drop

A north-country lad was the hero of this incident:—

> The inspector was dealing with the genders of nouns and pronouns, and, among other questions, he asked: "What is the gender of the noun, egg?" "Sir," answered a tall, shrewd lad behind, who probably surmised that it was a kind of "catch" question, and was determined to prove himself equal to the occasion, "you cannot tell til it's hatched!"

The next selection is taken from the essay of a lad in the third standard of the school, the subject for composition being coals. Here is the third paragraph of the lad's exercise:—"Be sure also at all times not to waste those coals which your Mother have to work so hard for in washing. For your Mother cant spare more then 5 pence a day out of 2 and 9 pence, with cloths and boots to buy, and the rent, and all that to find and all the herrins which you eat. Be sure and not light the fire till she comes home at night, but keep yourselves warm by playing in the street, or when its wet, running up and down the stares quick. Also blowing hands and jumping."

"TEMPLE BAR."

DEAR LAWRENCE. . . . I want to know about your two portraits of Thackeray: the first one (which I think Smith and Elder have) I know by the print. I want to know about one you last did (some two years ago?), whether you think it as good and characteristic; and also who has it. Frederic Tennyson sent me a photograph of W. B.—old, white, massive, and melancholy, sitting in his library. I am surprised almost to find how much I am thinking of him; so little as I had seen him for the last ten years; not once for the last five. I had been told—by you, for one—that he was spoiled. I am glad, therefore, that I have scarce seen him since he was "old Thackeray." I keep reading his "Newcomes" of nights, and, as it were, hear him saying so much in it; and it seems to me as if he might be coming up my stairs, and about to come (singing) into my room, as in old Charlotte-street, &c., thirty years ago. . . . I have this summer made the acquaintance of a great lady, with whom I have become perfectly intimate, through her letters, Mdme. de Sévigné. I had hitherto kept aloof from her, because of that eternal daughter of hers; but "it's all truth and daylight," as Kitty Clive said of Mrs. Siddons. Her letters from Britany are best of all, not those from Paris, for she loved the country, dear creature; and now I want to go and visit her "Rochers," but never shall.

The above letter from Edward Fitzgerald forms part of a paper which is worth reading as a whole. "The True History of Milford" is another interesting article, whilst the "Notes on Stockholm" will soon be seasonable

"GOOD WORDS."

Professor Flint is the writer of "Socialism" in this magazine—the first of a series of articles. "What is Socialism?" is the subject discussed this month, on the lines shown by the following extract:—

> The mode in which I understand, and in which I mean to employ the term Socialism, will not, I am aware, commend itself to those who call themselves Socialists. I do not ask or expect any Socialist who may read this and the following papers to assent to the view or definition of Socialism which I have given. I ask and expect him merely to note in what sense I purpose using the word—namely, to denote only social doctrines, or proposals which I think I may safely undertake to prove require such a sacrifice of the individual to society as society is not entitled to exact. I claim the right to define Socialism frankly and avowedly from my own point of view—the non-socialistic.

"Oyster Culture," written by the Marquis of Lorne, and illustrated by Princess Louise, conveys much interesting information about the "delicious bivalve."

"BLACKWOOD."

"Maga" has a melancholy interest this month, on account of the death of Lord Lamington, of whom a brief memoir is given:—

> Our readers will remember the careful study of "Elizabeth de Valois," as well as various slighter efforts. The interest and distinction of the last work from his pen—"In the Days of the Dandies"—so full of intimate knowledge of men and events, and reproducing, with so much animation and power, the atmosphere and peculiarities of an epoch which is concluded, have received universal acknowledgment; no doubt gratifying to him—anonymous as they were—in his last days; as well as very pleasing to ourselves, whose pages he had chosen as the medium of their publication.

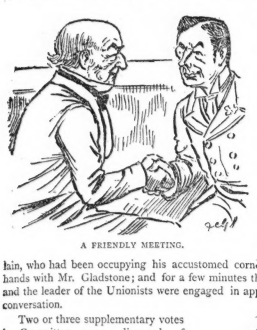
The third "Dandy" article is as good as those which preceded it. The subjoined excerpt will no doubt act as a sort of bait to the omnivorous "general reader," who will turn to *Blackwood* and eagerly devour the remainder of Lord Lamington's vivacious chronicle:—

> Lord Brougham was another of the *ultimi Romanorum* who welcomed the youth of the time with kindly greeting. Many a lesson of political life we learned from him. I recall that on one occasion he laid down as the principle of the first element of success the power of concentrating the mind on one subject. We had been talking of the French Revolution. "Do you mean, Lord Brougham," I asked, "that if you had been sentenced to be guillotined at ten o'clock you would have forgotten it till the hour arrived?" "If I were sentenced to be guillotined at ten o'clock I would not think of it till eight o'clock," he replied. "On the occasion of my speech on the Queen's trial, when all my reputation depended upon it, I determined to banish it from my mind. I slept so sound the night before, I only awoke in the morning in time to go to the court." A keen sense of the ridiculous he considered a proof of genius. He possessed an amusing sense of his own importance and his popular estimation. One day I went with him to dine at the Trafalgar, at Greenwich. We were a party of six; it was a picnic dinner, and we each of us paid our share. Lord Brougham called for writing materials and wrote a cheque. On one of us suggesting that if he had not any money we could lend it. "No, no," said Lord Brougham, "I have plenty of money; but don't you see, the host may prefer my signature to the money."

WESTERN AUSTRALIA AT WESTMINSTER.

IN THE HOUSE YESTERDAY. BY AN OBSERVER.

THE House was very crowded at question time yesterday, and so was the question paper, there being no less than fifty-three questions to be answered by Ministers. Mr. Goschen, in replying to a question about the Wheel and Van Tax expressed his satisfaction that the ratepayers were beginning to find out how much they lost when they rejected his proffered boon. On the other side of the table Mr. Gladstone was smiling benignantly at the Chancellor of the Exchequer's hopes for the resuscitation of his dead tax. The crowded benches quickly emptied when the House went into Committee of Supply. Mr. Chamberlain, who had been occupying his accustomed corner seat, moved up to shake hands with Mr. Gladstone; and for a few minutes the leader of the Liberals and the leader of the Unionists were engaged in apparently the most amicable conversation.



A FRIENDLY MEETING.

Two or three supplementary votes in Committee were disposed of in about as many minutes, and the Speaker resumed his seat. Then ponderously rose Baron De Worms, and in measured tones moved the second reading of the Western Australia (Constitution) Bill. It was, he explained, the same bill that passed through the Lords last year. This bill was the logical completion of the partial Constitution granted to Western Australia in 1870. It had received the fullest support from all the other Australian colonies. The worthy baron further quoted the Queensland precedent, and wound up his speech with a peroration about British pluck and unbroken peace. Sir George Campbell followed, and the air seemed suddenly filled with the droning and grating of Scotch bagpipes. A series of relatively short speeches followed, among them one of admirable brevity and lucidity from Mr. William McArthur. Speaking as one familiar with Australia, the member for Mid-Cornwall declared his willingness to go even beyond the Government bill, and give the whole of the territory to the Western Australians if they wanted it.

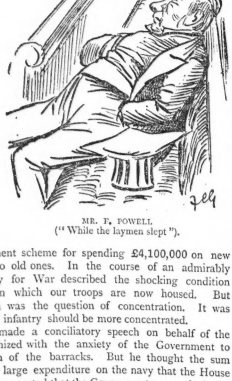
BARON DE WORMS.

"THE SCOTCH BAGPIPE."

Mr. Rathbone, on the other hand, urged that it was only fair that as England went to the expense of keeping up a large navy in order to defend her colonies, that these colonies should in return be compelled to receive British emigrants. Mr. Sydney Gedge opposed the bill on the ground that it chucked away the reserve lands of the Empire. Mr. Bryce said there was no reason to believe that the Colonial Government would treat emigrants from this country worse than they would be treated by the Home Government. He would soonest give over the control of the territories in dispute to a Federal Australian Government than leave them to the Colonial Office. Mr. Chamberlain, in a brief and pithy speech, pointed out that we were not dealing only with a handful of settlers in Western Australia, but with the whole population of all our Australasian colonies. He thought it well, however, that the attention of the House should be directed to the apparently unjustifiable conduct of the West Australian Legislature, in subjecting British vessels fishing for pearls to a tax not levied on foreign vessels. Mr. Channing read an interesting letter from a correspondent in Western Australia, who asserted that it was impossible to find in the colony a sufficient number of competent men willing to give up their time to parliamentary duties. Mr. Samuel Smith suggested that the whole demand for a new Constitution for West Australia was the work of a handful of rich squatters. Finally the bill was read a second time, and referred to a Select Committee.

FOUR MILLIONS FOR NEW BARRACKS.

The next business was the Companies (Winding-up) Bill, which Sir Michael Hicks-Beach explained to an empty House during the dinner hour. A wearisome debate followed; the lawyers doing all the talking while the laymen slept. Mr. Henry Fowler made the most effective speech, and severely criticised the bill. It was, however, read a second time without a division, and referred to the standing Committee on Trade. A similar fortune befell the Companies (Memorandum of Association) Bill, and then the House went into Committee to hear Mr. Stanhope explain the Government scheme for spending £4,100,000 on new barracks and radical repairs to old ones. In the course of an admirably lucid statement, the Secretary for War described the shocking condition of many of the barracks in which our troops are now housed. But beyond the question of health was the question of concentration. It was essential that both artillery and infantry should be more concentrated.



MR. F. POWELL.
("While the laymen slept").

Mr. Campbell-Bannerman made a conciliatory speech on behalf of the Opposition. He fully sympathized with the anxiety of the Government to improve the sanitary condition of the barracks. But he thought the sum asked for very serious after the large expenditure on the navy that the House had sanctioned last session. He suggested that the Government proposals should be referred to a Select Committee.

The House resumed and in a few minutes disposed of the remaining orders of the day.

Bord's Pianos.—25 per cent. discount for cash, or 15s. per month (Second-hand, 10s. 6d. per month) on the three years' system. Illustrated lists free of CHAS. STILES and CO., 62, SOUTHAMPTON-ROW, HOLBORN, W.C. Pianos exchanged.

City Notes.

THE DECLINE IN STOCK EXCHANGE VALUES.

Although there has been of late a general decline in prices in the stock markets, and the aggregate fall appears large, the percentage is very slight indeed. The aggregate market values of the securities taken for comparison by the *Bankers' Magazine* were :—

On January 27, 1890	£2,865,758,000
On February 24, 1890	2,857,631,000
Decrease	£8,127,000

Had South African mining and land ventures been included, the total decline would have appeared more serious. Nearly all departments have been affected, and even the securities of the best class with the exception of Consols.

ANOTHER COTTON CORNER.

We hear that it is on the cards that another cotton corner will be attempted at Liverpool this summer. In explanation of the present position of this article, which is somewhat unique, a correspondent writes :—The tendency of public feeling is towards a higher level of prices, and the arguments in favour of this view are backed by information and advices from America as to exhaustion, apparently strengthened by the supposition of an improved trade in the manufacturing districts. Should this be borne out by confirmation of exhaustion, it would appear that prices must go to a higher level. Now let us look at the actual facts. The stock of cotton in Liverpool is 1,026,540 bales against 732,020 last year, and the stock of American cotton is 813,360 or 81,340 more than the total of all growths at this time a year ago, while the price of middling American is 6 1-16 against 5 9-16 or ½*d.* per pound higher, with 235,510 bales more in stock of American. That receipts at the ports have fallen off is admitted, but then we must look at the hard fact that receipts are now 440,000 ahead of sametime last year. So that it would appear that for this crop to fall to the figures of last crop we must lose say for the next twenty-two weeks at the rate of 20,000 bales per week; and when we look at the fact that twenty weeks from now, on, the receipts were very small we are at a loss to see how the moderate estimates can be realized. There is also another important factor, which may possibly account for the apparent indifference of the "trade," and that is the admitted fact that this crop is from 3 to 5 per cent. better in spinning than the last—that is, 95 to 97 bales go as far as 100 bales of the last crop; which means that, assuming the output to be the same, the "trade" can do with 210,000 to 350,000 bales of American less than they took last year. Added to this is the important feature that the spinner has ample cotton—really more than ample, as the railway companies are in a dilemma as to finding storage on the overstocking of the spinners' forward takings.

THE MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

The directors of the Mutual Life Assurance Society were in a position to announce at the meeting yesterday that the new business of the past year was greater than in any previous year: 630 proposals were received for sums amounting to £339,497; of these, 108 for the sum of £98,700, were not completed; and 70, for £37,000, were either deferred or declined. The number of policies issued was 452, assuring £203,497, on which the premiums paid amounted to £7,592. The claims of the year arose in respect of 109 policies, assuring 81 lives for £70,563, to which was added in bonuses the sum of £27,906. As compared with the expected claims, the actual number of deaths was eight less, and the total amount paid was £2,922 less. The average bonus paid on each £100 assured on the participating scale, where the bonuses had not been commuted, was £48 7*s.* 8*d.* The accumulated fund now amounts to £1,198,692, and the actuary's calculations show that the net liability is £729,400, leaving a surplus in hand of £469,285. The average rate of interest yielded by the investments of the society is £4 2*s.* 2*d.* per cent.

The Ladies' Corner.

IN DEFENCE OF "VICTOR."

Another lady correspondent writes :—

Had the "lady correspondent" whose letter appeared in your impression of the 24th inst. given her name and address you should not have been troubled with this letter, as I should have written direct to her to stand up for the true nobility of Victor's character. "Canine unfaithfulness," indeed! I never heard of a stronger instance of canine rectitude and morality. For ten years Victor endured the flesh-pots of Egypt, its leeks and its onions—I mean his Dresden china and red blankets. He was the descendant of a long line of noble ancestors, and "bon chien chasse de race." He showed this, in his youthful way, in the "wet woodlands" and by the "reedy riverside" in pursuit of the "Lepus timidus" or "Gallinule chloropus," but I do not think his reasoning powers were fully aroused until the introduction of the obnoxious cats. He found himself supplanted, his nose so out of joint that it was an effort to wag his tail. But he took upon himself no hurried show of resentment. He consulted his friends at the farm, but steadily returned to what he still believed to be his post of duty—albeit at unconscionable hours—but when one is ratting—and I feel convinced there were rats at the farm—one is apt to forget how time goes. At last, having gently but firmly and gradually endeavoured to wean himself from his mistress's affections, he forsakes his life of effeminate ease for one of "low living and high thinking." His down pillow is exchanged for a rude couch of, possibly, straw; his piled-up Dresden plate for the cleemosynary morsel, and in the fulfilment of ancestral duties is dubbed "unfaithful" for his pains.

"NOBLESSE OBLIGE."

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Will a settlement of the great coal dispute be come to at the conferences of federated colliery owners and federated miners which are just about to take place? A feeling is gaining ground that the demands of the men are warranted by the advanced plane on which coal prices now stand, and that those demands will have to be conceded. The Yorkshire delegates say that men of business will not be misled by the certificate of the Leeds accountant just made public by the Yorkshire coal owners. No doubt many collieries had contracted for three-fourths or even a larger percentage of their actual output at the low prices prevailing a year ago. And therefore, although coal has risen 80 to 100 per cent. in many instances, those collieries have only had a small surplus quantity on which to realize the high prices. So that it is doubtless correct that the total advance on their whole output has not exceeded 1s. 6d. per ton. As their old contracts run off the great railway companies are now paying 9s. 6d. to 10s. 6d. at the pit for steam coals which they got only about a year or eighteen months ago at from 4s. 6d. to 6s. per ton at pit. And the "small" coal, or slack and dust, a large quantity of which used to be thrown on the pit-banks and wasted, is now eagerly bought at 5s. and 6s. at pit, even where it is not worth much more than this for making into furnace coke. Formerly 1s. per ton was considered a good price for this refuse coal.

One of the great reasons put forward by the Durham miners for believing that the colliery owners will grant their demands is the steady price of Cleveland pig iron. The production of this article is, after coal-raising, the staple industry of the county. All the ironmasters are coalmasters also, and nearly all the collieries are connected with, or more or less dependent for trade upon, the great groups of blast furnaces. The men say that had the masters resolved that a strike should take place the price of pig iron would have advanced enormously, but that, knowing that the men's demands will be granted, the quoted figures hardly move from day to day.

The miners' delegates are men of ability, and have apparently full information as to the state of the various coal and iron markets. They are aware that the price of raw material, especially pig iron, is very much higher in Germany than it is in England, and that directly the winter floods subside in the German rivers, very large shipments of Cleveland pig iron will take place. And their information is that the whole of the present stock at Middlesbrough is certain to disappear before May is over.

The Durham miners therefore feel confident that their demands will be granted, and say that the other colliery owners throughout the country will be glad of an excuse to follow the example of the Durham coalmasters if the men show themselves determined to stand out, though perhaps a short strike of a week or two may take place in some districts.

GREAT FLOODS IN THE UNITED STATES.

HALF CINCINNATI UNDER WATER.

A Dalziel's telegram says:—The threatened overflow of the Ohio river and her tributaries has come, and half the city is under water. The railroads and surrounding country are submerged for many miles, and business and traffic are at a standstill. The municipal authorities, aided by the military organizations and volunteer parties of citizens are hard at work saving property and preventing loss of life.

MUNICIPAL PROHIBITION IN ONTARIO.

The new licence law for Ontario gives the municipal councils power to prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquor.—*Dalziel.*

ACTION BY MR. DAVITT AGAINST THE "SPECTATOR."

That *Freeman's Journal* says:—"We understand that Mr. Michael Davitt has commenced proceedings against the *Spectator* for libel. The alleged libel, it is stated, arises out of certain criticisms of that journal connecting Mr. Davitt with the Manchester rescue. The venue is laid in Dublin."

BASEBALL TEAM TO VISIT ENGLAND.

A Dalziel's telegram from Chicago says:—A. Spalding, the baseball champion, is organizing a corps of twelve expert players to visit England at the end of March, for the purpose of organizing baseball clubs in English colleges.

MDME. PATTI'S COMPANY IN A SNOW DRIFT.

A Denver telegram states that Mr. Abbey's Italian Opera Company's special train arrived there on Wednesday afternoon. It was delayed by a snow blockade, and members of the company are in a bad way, owing to the privations they underwent when blocked in a snowbank for fifteen hours. Madame Patti is suffering from a severe cold.

FIENDISH ATTACKS ON A WIFE.

A Dalziel's telegram from New York says:—A man named Bienenstein, jealous of his wife, has made several attempts to murder her. His efforts included turning on the gas when she was in bed and nearly suffocating her shooting at her with a revolver, and inflicting a severe wound upon her with an axe. Yesterday he poured carbolic acid over his wife's face and completely blinded her, besides inflicting other terrible injuries to her face and neck. The fiend is in gaol. The woman is believed to be past recovery.

A BANQUET TO ONE OF STANLEY'S LIEUTENANTS

CAPTAIN NELSON ON HIS AFRICAN EXPERIENCES.

Last evening, at the Leeds Club, a banquet was given by a number of members of the club to Captain Robert Nelson, of Leeds, in recognition of the noble and gallant part he had played as one of Stanley's lieutenants in the expedition for the relief of Emin Pasha. Replying to the toast of his health, Captain Nelson said:—I am afraid I cannot tell you much about the expedition; you must understand that my lips are sealed until my chief returns to England. You all know that in the autumn of 1886 we heard that there was a gallant man, the last of Gordon's officers, holding his own bravely against tremendous odds in the centre of the Dark Continent. You will also remember how a feeling suddenly sprang up that England was a little to blame for his being in that position, and that a few men thought that Englishmen ought to go to his aid. A private expedition was got up, chiefly by Sir William McKinnon, under the leadership of Mr. Stanley. I volunteered, and had the good fortune to be accepted by him as one of his officers. The Congo route was chosen by Mr. Stanley, and events have proved, at least to me, that it was the only possible one. The first year we had a pretty rough time of it. Through that dark and dreary forest we cut our way foot by foot till at last we reached the open country close to the Albert Nyanza, and found the man we went to seek. During that time we suffered terribly from fever and starvation, and lost an enormous number of our followers; but, thanks to the indomitable courage and marvellous resource of our splendid leader, we pulled through, and managed to bring our expedition to a successful issue. We have to mourn the loss of two of the officers of the expedition, as gallant men as ever stepped. Both died doing their duty under terrible difficulties, in a way such as I believe only Englishmen can do. I can tell you no more about the expedition. The history of it will soon be in the hands of the public. There is one thing I should like to say, and that is this—I have been repeatedly asked since my return if I would go again with Mr. Stanley to Africa. My answer is, Yes, at an hour's notice. I have served under him for three years, and I know him. He is a man of splendid pluck and wonderful fertility of resource, and has the power of inspiring one with confidence and trust, which only great leaders of men have. Yes; I should be proud to serve under him again, and I only hope that if he goes to Africa again he will take me with him. (Applause.)

NORTH ST. PANCRAS FOR THE LIBERALS!

LAST NIGHT'S MEETINGS.

As was yesterday prophesied, the Liberal meeting at Carlton-road Board School last night proved a great success. Whole crowds were turned away. Into the infants' room, built to hold scores, hundreds were packed. A number of soldiers in uniform were present, and took part in the general enthusiasm. They were officers of the Salvation Army. One of the early arrivals was Sir John Bennett, who was quickly recognized and cheered. As the candidate entered, the whole meeting rose to its feet with "three times three," and a similar compliment was paid to Mr. Herbert Gladstone and Mr. Osborne Morgan when they put in their appearance. A Highgate gentleman (Mr. John Beauchamp) presided. Mr. Bolton's address was well delivered, and well received; and was eulogised by Mr. Osborne Morgan, who spoke after him. The right hon. gentleman laughed at the Lord Advocate's defence of the Attorney-General's conduct. "I want some better security than Bardolph." Any three men—nay women—could give as good an opinion as the Commission judges on the points on which the respondents had been found guilty. Having known the revolutions in Canada, Hungary, and Italy, he could say there had been no revolution carried out with so little crime as the Irish Home Rule movement; and he drew attention to the lives of Count Andrassy and Mazzini, the former of whom had been sentenced to be hanged, the latter had openly advocated murder. Mr. Herbert Gladstone next rose, and the people would not stop cheering until he stood upon a chair to address them, as otherwise all could not have seen him. Referring to the nine days' wonder, the "chip of the old block" denied the power of the judges to be impartial—to be greater than that which lies in any other man; and proceeded to show on what "miserable, flimsy" evidence the verdict of guilty had been found. If he had any disappointment in the Report, it was that only eight of the Parnellites had been found "guilty" of advocating in the days gone by separation between England and Ireland; that not more Irishmen had burned with as holy a zeal. (Hear, hear.) The mountain had laboured and brought forth its mouse; and the mouse had been stillborn. (Loud laughter.) The high pitch of enthusiasm which now possessed the audience was prolonged by speeches from Mr. Woodall, Mr. A. Birrell, and Mr. Hedderwick. After resolving that Mr. Bolton was a fit and proper person to represent the constituency it broke up with cheers. Outside the building an *al fresco* gathering was successfully organized, addresses being delivered by what the Tories would call "gutter politicians." Mr. Bolton addressed another meeting in Leighton Hall. Mr. Osborne Morgan and Mr. Woodall were well to the fore here also; and Mr. Bolton was further fortunate in obtaining the aid of Dr. Farquharson, M.P., and Dr. J. T. Fox, M.P.

THIS MORNING'S REPORTS.—THE NOMINATIONS.

The bright sunshine prevailing in North St. Pancras this morning is in keeping with the Liberal hopes. The railway men, the members of the Tram and 'Bus Union, the members of the National Labour Electoral Association, the Welshmen, the temperance party, the anti-vaccinationists, the employés of such firms as Brinsmead's—all are expected to practically go solid for Mr. Bolton and the "Grand Old Man." The Liberal candidate is better to-day, and will again be "at home" this afternoon at the Central Committee rooms. This evening he addresses three meetings—one at the British schools in Kentish-town-road, where Professor Stuart, M.P., and the hon. Bernard Coleridge, M.P., will be the other speakers; another at Wilkin-street schools, where Mr. J. Spencer Balfour, M.P., and Mr. S. T. Evans, M.P., as well as Professor Stuart, again will put their shoulders to the rhetorical wheel; and a third at Grove House School, Highgate (by special permission of the Master), where Mr. Visitors will include Mr. H. L. W. Lawson, M.P., Dr. Macdonald, M.P., Lord Salisbury's Black Man, and Mr. J. O'Connor Power.

The light-fingered fraternity shared in the enthusiasm at the Carlton-road meeting last night. I was this morning informed that a local dignitary who was on the platform lost his valuable watch in the terrible crush, and that a reporter of the *Daily News* was similarly unfortunate.

The nominations of candidates were received this forenoon by Mr. Halse, the returning officer, between ten and twelve o'clock. The nomination papers of Mr. T. Henry Bolton (Gladstonian Liberal) and Mr. Harry R. Graham (Conservative) were handed in at ten o'clock. Mr. John Leighton (Independent Unionist) attended at 10.15, and handed in two nomination papers.

Mr. Graham, the Conservative candidate, arrived a few minutes before ten, accompanied by Mr. Rowe, his election agent, Mr. Dixon (chairman of the Conservative Association), Mr. Churchwarden Boden, Mr. Burdett-Coutts, M.P., and other gentlemen. Mr. Bolton, the Liberal candidate arrived immediately after, accompanied by his agent, Mr. George F. Smith, Mr. Charles Hind, Mr. Howell Williams, Mr. Tew, and Mr. Barnard. The nomination papers of the two candidates were handed in simultaneously. Half a dozen were placed before the Returning Officer for Mr. Graham. There was one for each electoral district of the division, one exclusively signed by railway workmen, and another by Roman Catholics. There will be another for the Liberal Unionists. Two sets of papers were handed in for Mr. Bolton. Mr. Charles Hind, Mr. C. Hind and Mr. S. R. Lamble (churchwarden) were the proposer and seconder. The second paper had the name of Mr. Howell Williams as mover and Mr. Fred. Tew as seconder. For Mr. Graham, Mr. Burdett-Coutts moved, and Mr. Dixon seconded, the principal nomination paper, which was signed, as were also those of Mr. Bolton, very extensively.

SWEARING IN THE NEW JUDGE.

Mr. Justice Lawrance, the new judge, was sworn in before the Lord Chief Justice this morning, and then took his seat with Mr. Justice Cave in a Divisional Court.

MR. BAIRD AND THE PELICAN CLUB.

The motion made on behalf of Mr. "Abington"—Baird against the committee of the Pelican Club—to restrain the latter from removing his name from the list of members of the club, was opened this morning before Mr. Justice Stirling.

SERIOUS MUTINY ON AN ATLANTIC STEAMER.

A Dalziel's telegram from New York says:—The steamship *Enterprise* arrived yesterday with the body of the Hon. George Pendleton, United States Minister to Germany. The voyage was eventful, owing to the murderous dispositon evinced by the crew, one man being still in irons when the steamer was docked. Fourteen men had to be similarly treated during the voyage. Captain Maccalla declined to give any information.

THE ULSTER TORIES AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL.

The Ulster Tories (writes the London correspondent of the *Leeds Mercury*) are taking up a most irreconcilable attitude on the Local Government Bill. I believe, says he, that Colonel Saunderson has been in communication with Lord Salisbury on the subject, and has warned the Prime Minister that he and his friends will oppose any bill which would increase the power of the Nationalists in Ireland.

SIR MORELL MACKENZIE'S ACTION AGAINST THE PROPRIETOR OF THE *ST. JAMES'S GAZETTE*

MR. STEINKOPFF'S ALLEGED GERMAN TENDENCIES.

SIR MORELL MACKENZIE CHARGED WITH "CONSPIRACY."

The hearing of the libel action brought by Sir Morell Mackenzie against Mr. Edward Steinkopff, the proprietor of the *St. James's Gazette*, was commenced before Baron Huddleston and a special jury this morning. The libel consists of two letters written by the defendant to Mr. Frederick Greenwood, who was at the time editor of the *St. James's Gazette*. The defendant in the pleadings denies that the meaning put upon the letters by the plaintiff is the true one, and pays forty shillings into court to meet the plaintiff's claim. Sir Charles Russell, Q.C., Mr. Asquith, Q.C., and Mr. Arthur Russell appeared for Sir Morell Mackenzie; while Mr. Steinkopff was defended by Mr. Finlay, Q.C., and Mr. Percy Gye. Plaintiff and defendant were present in court.

Sir Charles Russell, in opening the case for the plaintiff, first sketched the history of the illness of the Emperor Frederick, from the moment when Sir Morell Mackenzie was called in doors to his death on the 15th June, 1888. He then proceeded to address himself to the following questions:—What were the libels? By whom were they written? To whom were they written? Under what circumstances were they written? And with what object were they written?

Mr. Steinkopff was a German gentleman who had become a naturalized British subject. He seemed in the month of May, 1888, to have formed the design of securing a newspaper which should bear an English name, which should be published in London, but which should be a German organ, representing certain powerful German influences. He was at the time negotiating for the purchase of the *St. James's Gazette*—in fact, he believed he had practically accomplished the purchase—and was at that time hoping to continue in the character of editor a man of considerable distinction in literature—a gentleman of the name of Greenwood. In fact, as he expressed it in the libels themselves, he regarded Mr. Frederick Greenwood as, in fact, his editor at the time the libels in question were written.

The learned counsel then proceeded to read *in extenso* the first of the letters referred to. They were both dated May 14, 1888, and each of them was addressed to Mr. Greenwood.

The first letter was as follows:—

My dear Greenwood,—I wrote you on Sunday morning and hope that the little difference with Mr. Gibbs has been removed. I have seen R. [Roffenberg—a kind of press censor] more than once, and there has been a good deal of conversation which is all of a very satisfactory kind. To-day I intend to ask him for actual help. In future I may not be necessary to have such a channel here who receives the news to transmit, but in whichever way it is done, the news will have to go. I believe we shall certainly obtain them. I find that there is a desire to operate as much as possible against Boulanger. Probably you will hear more on this subject. Salisbury seems to be in good odour. He was not well last year, R. says, but he is much better now. Randolph C. is here, and was very anxious to be received in Frederick's room, but did not succeed, and Prince B. actually delayed his return to Berlin to avoid the appearance of having come to see him. The Emperor is not expected to live much longer, and when he dies the storm will break out against Mackenzie—not on account of the final collapse, but because of the many mistakes which he is said to have made. The Queen is praised as having shown much more sense than the Empress. The Crown Prince reads your paper every day and marks passages in the leader. I saw in R.'s room the first page of the 7th or 9th April all underlined in red. I am waiting for your letter. Bismarck leaves town to-morrow, and is expected to be back in eight days. Your letter of the 10th has come to hand to-day. Many thanks. I shall read it to Roffenberg.

Another letter, dated shortly afterwards, was then read, the important passage being:—

I am told again, and from a totally different quarter, that Mackenzie will have to run the moment the Emperor dies. . . . He will find it difficult to stand. He is charged with conspiracy in so far as he, knowing the Emperor suffered from cancer, denied it in order that the Emperor might not be excluded from succession, which certainly would have been done in accordance with the laws of the Hohenzollerns had Mackenzie admitted the existence of cancer. He also consented to provide funds for various present and prospective purposes. . . .

Sir Charles continued that there could not be a more serious imputation than that Sir Morell Mackenzie had conspired to prostitute his position and talents in the manner described. Mr. Greenwood did not make attacks upon Sir Morell, as Mr. Steinkopff had done. The proceedings before Mr. Justice Denman brought the libel to the notice of Sir Morell Mackenzie. Mr. Greenwood would not make the *St. James's Gazette* a German organ. The letters were seen in court on the occasion by the reporter of the *Times*, and appeared in the paper. Sir Morell Mackenzie immediately took steps to vindicate his character. Messrs. Freshfield wrote to Messrs. Lewis on 24th May, '89.

No one more regrets than Mr. Steinkopff himself that through an unpardonable blunder some of the letters were published *in extenso* in the papers. The letters were written in confidence to Mr. Greenwood. . . .

Mr. Steinkopff offered an apology to Sir Morell on May 27—"if the letters were a libel, he begged to apologize." But he never said that he did not believe the letters. Would Mr. Steinkopff enter the box to say what had really happened? Mr. Steinkopff was writing as proprietor to the man he virtually regarded as editor these letters intended to guide the policy of the paper. It had been asserted that the letters were privileged. It was also said that the words did not bear the meaning alleged. The 40*l.* paid into court were simply "contemptuous" damages.

LADY LIBERALS IN COUNCIL.

THE CONFERENCE AT THE N.L.C.

If the ladies of the various Women's Liberal Associations did nothing else to further the Liberal cause, they would still do it excellent service by the energy and enthusiasm which they bring to it. This was again apparent this morning, when a strong and influential contingent of delegates from London and the Home Counties met in conference at the Conference Room of the National Liberal Club under the presidency of Lady Sandhurst, who makes an almost ideal "chairman." Mrs. Costelloe, about whose charming costume in green and terra cotta there was an air of modest puritanism, and Mrs. Maitland supported Lady Sandhurst. Among those present were Miss Cons, of the L.C.C.; Mrs. Bunting, Mrs. Clayden, Mrs. Fearnsil Smith, Miss Mallet, Miss Brown, and many other well-known Lady Liberals. Social Reforms was the first subject on the programme, and Lady Sandhurst moved the resolution—

That this Conference of Women's Liberal Associations of London and the home counties, while cordially recognizing the urgent necessity of the Irish question as the first question, sees with pleasure the growing prominence given in the Liberal Programme to measures tending to improve the social condition of the masses of the people in town and country, and urges that special attention should be given by the Women's Liberal Federation to the spread of information and the forming of public opinion upon these subjects.

Lady Sandhurst pointed out that, because ladies advocate Home Rule for Ireland, there is no reason why they should not be equally anxious to promote the general interest in the welfare of the working classes in England.

Mrs. Maitland, in seconding the resolution, made an admirable speech in favour of free education, and laid special stress on the fact that it was of the utmost importance for the general public to know that free education will not increase the rates and taxes. Miss Cons, who supported the resolution, did so in a characteristically short speech, explaining that while she was fully in sympathy with the movement, she was not a speaker, but only a worker.

Mrs. Mallet and several others next spoke on the question of London social reform, and Mrs. Costelloe introduced the subject of the intention of the Factory Acts, and urged the importance of organized philanthropy.

A lively discussion was kept up till 1.30 when the meeting was adjourned for an hour.

LORD DURHAM ON TURF REFORM.

Lord Durham, writing in *The New Review* on turf reform, suggests that assumed names ought to be abolished, that the meetings of the Jockey Club should be reported, and that an effort should be made to reduce the number of short races and to encourage competition for long distance races.

PROFESSOR HERKOMER'S RETURN HOME.

Professor Herkomer has returned home, after a holiday in Italy, and is devoting himself with renewed energy to his many and varied duties. The music of his pictorial play of 1891 will, for some time to come, take up all the attention he can spare from many work. It is stated that the piece will occupy three acts, and that the scene is laid in Britain during the Roman period. Some remarkable stage effects may be anticipated.

MR. GLADSTONE'S AMENDMENT.

It is stated that the division on Mr. Gladstone's amendment will not be taken till Monday week. The Opposition object to giving up Wednesday, which has been secured for Mr. Campbell-Bannerman's Earlwise Disabilities Removal Bill, and as five days will be required for the debate, the division cannot be taken till Monday.

MAJOR SERPA PINTO ON HIS RECENT EXPLOITS

"SURPRISED AT THE FUSS MADE IN ENGLAND AND PORTUGAL."

Major Serpa Pinto arrived in Durban on Tuesday. He has (the *Times* correspondent says) been interviewed by a representative of the *Natal Mercury*, to whom he expressed surprise at the fuss made by both England and Portugal. He had sent heavy despatches to Lisbon, which were due there in ten days, and, till the contents were made known, he asked that judgment upon him might be suspended. He stated that his instructions on starting on his expedition were to survey the Aruangua river, on the west bank of Lake Nyassa. He took 350 armed natives from Inhambane, and afterwards, in one week, raised 5,000 at Mozambique.

On reaching Massmgiri, an old Portuguese settlement ninety miles south of Lake Nyassa, he was attacked by a large impi of Makololo, armed with rifles. He repulsed them, as also a second attack. On November 3, the Makololo, to the number of 12,000, surrounded Massmgiri and continued firing from four o'clock in the morning till eleven in the forenoon. This was the historic battle. Regarding the English flag, Major Serpa Pinto stated that two warriors who were killed were carrying two new English naval ensigns. Altogether 72 of the Makololo were killed and 300 afterwards succumbed. Subsequently, the Makololo sued for peace and avowed their allegiance. From information obtained from the Makololo, Major Serpa Pinto charges Mr. Moir, of the African Lakes Company, with inciting the attacks, and also charges the missionaries with being contributories.

Major Serpa Pinto insists on the Portuguese claim to the territory. He says that for twenty-five years the natives paid tribute to a Portuguese resident named Maryano for keeping order in the district. He died ten years ago, and was succeeded by his son, who lost control over the natives, and after a revolt in 1884 they refused to pay tribute. The Portuguese quelled the revolt, and the country was just becoming peaceful when the disturbance referred to arose. Major Serpa Pinto values the African Lake Company's assets at Lake Nyassa at only £1,100, and laughs at their asking for a British protectorate. He proceeds to Cape Town to-day to await the gunboat which is to convey him to Lisbon in time for the opening of the Cortes, of which he is a member.

LORD TENNYSON.

Dr. Alfred Holles issued a bulletin last evening, to the effect that Lord Tennyson is making satisfactory progress, and that there is every prospect of his recovery, which, however, will be necessarily slow. No further bulletins will be issued.

DOM PEDRO ON BRAZIL.

A Central News telegram from New York says there is published there an interview which the editor of the Buenos Ayres *Nacion* has had with Dom Pedro, and which first appeared in that journal. In the late Majesty regards Señor Bocayuva, Minister of Foreign Affairs, as the right man for his post, and one who will secure Brazil's influence abroad. He estimates the other members of the Provisional Government as patriots, and expresses his willingness to serve them and the country even while in banishment. Whilst being without any intention of issuing a manifesto or bringing about intestine strife in Brazil, Dom Pedro considers himself as being always ready to subject himself to the will of the people, though he declined to state whether he would return to the throne if recalled. He thinks the people of Brazil are prepared for a Republican form of government.

THE CHARGE OF SHOOTING MAJOR ISAACS, M.P.

The Surrey assizes commence at Guildford on Monday next, and it is expected that the charge preferred by Major Isaacs, M.P., against the woman Elizabeth Vincent for an alleged intent to shoot him, will be tried there.

MR. BIGGAR AND MR. TIM HEALY.

Mr. Biggar has not left any money to Mr. Tim Healy. This omission was made at the request of Mr. Healy himself, who, learning Mr. Biggar's intentions, carried out in one of the earlier editions of the will, begged him to dispose of his money in other channels. Mr. Biggar was not to be entirely thwarted, and he has left a legacy of £200 to a son of Mr. Tim Healy, for whom he stood godfather.—*Liverpool Post.*

DEATH OF THE ENGLISH DRAUGHTS CHAMPION.

Mr. James Smith, of Spennymoor, champion draught player of England, died yesterday from paralysis.

PROPOSED CONGRESS OF THE FREE CHURCHES.

A proposal has been made to Nonconformists to the effect that a Free Church Congress be established, to consist of representative men from the different branches of English Nonconformity. Whilst proceeding on somewhat similar lines to the Church Congress, care is taken to prevent it from being in any way interpreted as a menace to the Established Church. Its main purpose will be the welding together the Evangelical Nonconformity of England. It is argued that the theological differences which separate the various bodies of Nonconformists from one another are neither so extreme nor so vital as those which divide the different parties in the Church of England. Representatives from all the great Nonconformist bodies have expressed their sympathy with the movement, which is at present only in its initial stage.

ARMY AND NAVY ADMINISTRATION.—LORD RANDOLPH'S PROPOSALS.

The memorandum which Lord Randolph Churchill handed in as a member of the Royal Commission on Army and Navy Administration, recommends the abolition of the Civil Heads of Departments, and the substitution of Naval and Military officers. This object of the noble lord is to fix responsibility, which under the existing system it is impossible to do. With a view to retrenchment in the public service the Commission have recommended the abolition of certain offices, and the amalgamation of their duties with those of other official posts. This would include the abolition of the office of Civil Lord of the Admiralty, and the merging of its duties into those of the Junior Naval Lord and Parliamentary Secretary. In the event of the Commandership in Chief being extinguished, its place will be taken by an office known as the Chief of the Staff.

WHEN MR. GLADSTONE CATCHES COLD.

Whenever Mr. Gladstone catches cold he at once goes to bed. This (writes the London correspondent of the Aberdeen *Free Press*) has been his rule for at least fifteen years. It is an interesting fact, not generally known, that the Liberal leader wrote his election address announcing the dissolution of Parliament, 1874, in bed. It has been suggested that the member for Midlothian found it convenient to stay away from Parliament on Friday in order to avoid the free education debate. Such a suggestion is without foundation. An hon. member who was invited to meet the ex-Premier at dinner on Friday night tells me that, although Mrs. Gladstone was present, Mr. Gladstone was unable to attend.

THE DISASTER IN ARIZONA.

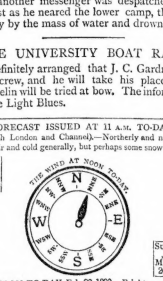
It appears that, on the afternoon preceding the disaster near Prescott, the superintendent of the works sent a messenger down the valley to warn the inhabitants, but the man stopped at a saloon, got into a state of intoxication, and failed to deliver the message. As soon as it became known that the warning had not been carried, another messenger was despatched, but unfortunately it was then too late. Just as he neared the lower camp, the flood overtook him, and he was swept away by the mass of water and drowned.

THE UNIVERSITY BOAT RACE.

It has now been definitely arranged that J. C. Gardner, of Emmanuel, shall stroke the Cambridge crew, and he will take his place during the practice at Ely this afternoon. Gelin will be tried at bow. The information will be welcome to the supporters of the Light Blues.

THERMOMETER. FORECAST ISSUED AT 11 A.M. TO-DAY. BAROMETER.

South England (with London and Channel)—Northerly and north-easterly winds, fresh; fair and cold generally, but perhaps some snow showers.



WEATHER AT NOON TO-DAY, Feb. 28, 1890.—Bright, sunny; keen, frosty air. *Readings by* NEGRETTI AND ZAMBRA'S *Instruments.*

THE MONEY MARKET.

One o'clock.

HOME RAILWAYS AND FOREIGN STOCKS STEADY.—AMERICANS DULL.—SMALL BUSINESS.

The requirements in connection with the Stock Exchange settlement having now been practically satisfied, there is a smaller demand for accommodation in the shape of short loans, and the supply of cash has been largely increased by the recent borrowings from the Bank of England; borrowers can generally get what they require at from 4½ to 5 per cent. The discount rate for three months' bills is now little better than 4 per cent., but holders of bills still keep them back in anticipation of easier terms, the impression being pretty general that a further reduction in the Bank rate will be made next week.

There is as yet no sign of increased activity in the Stock Markets although the settlement has been satisfactorily concluded, and operators are generally under the impression that the rates for money will now continue in the downward direction. Consols are steady and show no quotable alteration. In the English railway market there is a slightly better tone in the section for North Eastern and Scotch stocks, and Great Eastern not only maintains yesterday's improvement, but shows a further advance. The rise in this stock recently has been in part due to the state of the account, the stock at the settlement being short for delivery. Foreign Stocks are quiet, both for European and South and Central American issues. Peruvian Bonds have been rather offered, but Uruguay Six per Cents. are firm. Advices from New York continue of anything but a character to stimulate operations for the rise on this side, and American Railway shares are again generally lower, though the decline is as much due to absence of business as anything else. Trunks and Mexican Railway issues are quiet, and in the Mining and Miscellaneous markets there is no feature beyond a somewhat sharp rise in New Jagersfontein.

The London Committee of the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas Railway notify holders of the Five per Cent. and Six per Cent. General Consolidated Mortgage Bonds and Ordinary Shares, that the scheme for the Plan of reorganization, that the certificates must be deposited at the London and Westminster Bank on or before the 1st March, as after that date they can only be received with a fine of 2 per cent. upon the Bonds, and of 1 per cent. upon the Shares.

The Argentine Government have sanctioned the opening for public traffic, on the 1st March, of the first section of the Tucuman Extension of the Buenos Ayres and Rosario Railway, from Sunchales to Pintos, a distance of 232 kilometres (144 miles).

Mr. George W. Campbell has been elected chairman of the Eastern Mortgage and Agency Company (Limited), and Mr. James Hora has been appointed managing director.

Robson and Sons (Limited) have declared an interim dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the six months ending December, 1889, payable on March 15.

The gross receipts of the twenty-three principal railways in the United Kingdom for the week ending February 23 amounted to £1,221,994, an increase of £245,500, or 3.7 per cent.

Mr. W. R. Stevens, the secretary of the South Eastern Railway Company, writes:—"I am directed to inform you that the circular which has been issued to the proprietors of the South Eastern Railway Company by Messrs. Arthur Anderson and Co. was sent out without any previous communication having been made to the board. The directors desire to warn the proprietors against accepting the statements contained therein as a correct statement of facts."

LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.—The market opened quiet with small demand Probable sales 7,000 bales. Prices on the spot opened at one half to one point higher.

The following are the latest changes compared with yesterday's closing:—

HOME.—*Rises:* Great Northern Deferred ½; Great Eastern, North British Preferred and Deferred ½ each. *Receded:* Chatham Ordinary, Caledonian, and Midland ⅛ each.

FOREIGN STOCKS.—*Advanced:* Brazilian Scrip (partly paid) ¼, Uruguay Six per Cents. ¼, and Spanish 1-16. *Declined:* French Four and a Half per Cents. ¼, and Peruvian Five per Cents. ⅛ each.

AMERICAN RAILWAYS.—*Rises:* Ohio and Mississippi Ordinary ¼, and Louisville and Nashville ½. *Fallen:* Illinois Central ½, Northern Pacific Preference ½, Union Pacific shares ¼, Milwaukee shares, Denver Ordinary, Norfolk and Western Preference, and Atlantic First Preference ⅛.

CANADIAN AND FOREIGN RAILWAYS.—*Higher:* Taltal ¼, Grand Trunk Third Preference ⅛, and Lombardo-Venetian 1-16. *Lower:* Mexican Ordinary ⅛.

MINES AND MISCELLANEOUS.—*Improved:* New Jagersfontein ¼, Eastman's Ordinary and Ellenoff ⅛ each, Rio Tinto ¼, Bell's Asbestos ¼, Beers and Salisbury ⅛, Clip and Suburban ⅛, and Tharsis 1-16. *Receded:* Colorado Nitrate ¼, Mason and Barry, and Ottoman Bank 1-16.

The following are this day's 1 o'clock prices of the principal Stocks and Shares:—

BRITISH FUNDS, ETC.		
Consols (2½) Money	97⅛	⅜
Do. Account	97⅛	⅜
Do. 1905	99½	100
New 2½ per Cents.	95¼	⅜
Local Loans Stock	106	¾
India 3½ per Cents.	107¼	¾
Do. 4½ p. c. Rs.	71	¼
Egyptian Guar.	98	⅜
Bk. of England St.	353	6
Met. Bd. Wks. 3½ p.c.	112¼	¾
Do. 3 p. c. Scrip	102	¾
Birmingham 3½ p. c.	111	11
Leeds 4 per cent.	115	17
Liverpool 3½ p. c.	112½	13
Manchester 4 p. c.	126	8
COLONIAL SECURITIES.		
Canada 4 p. c. Reg.	107	9
Canada 3 p. c. Reg.	97	9
Cape 6 p. c Cons Stk	110½	11½
Ceylon 4 p. c. Ins.	110½	11½
Mauritius 4 p. c Ins.	106	7
Natal 3 p. c. C 1907	110½	11½
N.S. Wales Ins 1935	113	15
" 3½ 1923	104	5
New Zlnd 4½ p.c. Cons.	116½	17½
Queensland 5 p. c. Cons.	110	11
S. Austln. 4 p.c. Reg.	109	10
Victoria 4 p. c. of 1885	111¼	12⅜
W. Australia 6 p. c. Deb.	126	7
FOREIGN STOCKS.		
Argentn 4½ p.c. 1888	81	½
Do. 3½ p.c. Extnl.	61½	2⅜
Do. Cedulas A	44½	5½
Do. B	44	½
Austrian Gold	95	5
" Silver	74	6
Brazilian 4½ 1889	84¼	5¼
Do. 1889 (Coffee)	67½	⅜
Do. " (partly pd)	11½	12 dis
B. Ayres 6 p.c. 1883	103	1
" Cedulas "1"	53½	¾
" "	33¾	¾
Bulgarian	88½	9¼
Chilian 4½ p.c. 1889	101	2
Costa Rica 4	98	9
" B	87	9
Ecuador, New	24½	5
Egypt. State Dom.	101	¼
Do. Unified	111⅞	13/16
Egypt. Preference	103½	4½
Do. Daira Sanieh	84	½
French 3 p.c. Rentes	96⅞	¼
Do. 4½ p.c. Rentes	104½	⅜
Greek 5 p. c. 1881-4	90¼	90½
Do. 4 p. c. Mon.	74¼	⅝
Hongr. Gold Rentes	87¾	⅝
Italian	92¾	⅜
Mexican 6 p.c. 1888	95	⅜
Peruvian 5 p. c. 1872	17	¾
Do. 5 p. c. 1889	20¼	
Portuguese	65	¾
Russian 4 p. c. 1889	93½	¾
Spanish 4 p. c.	71¾	¼
Turkish, 1854	102	4
Conv. A	40¼	1¼
Do. B	22	¼
Do. D	17⅞	18¼
4½ p. c. 1871	97⅛	8
5 p. c. Defence	102⅝	3
5 p. c. Priority	97	½
Uruguay Unified	73½	4
Do. 6 p. c. 1888	89	½
Venezuelan 3 p. c.	44½	5½
U.S. 4½ p. c.	103	7 xd
BRITISH RAILWAYS.		
Brighton Ordinary	153	⅝
Do. A	153	⅜
Chatham Ordinary	23½	¾
Do. Preference	109½	10
Caledonian	155	½
Great Eastern	84¼	½
Great Northern	120	2 xd
Do. A	103	4 x
Great Western	162¼	¾xd
Hull and Barnsley	37⅜	⅛
Lanc. and York.	121½	2½
North Western	176½	¾xd
South Western	134½	⅜
Manch. and Sheff.	83	50
Do. A	47⅜	⅞
Metro. Consolidated	76½	⅞
Do. New	29	30
Midland	141¾	2¼xd
North Brit. Pref.	77¾	⅜
Do. Def.	44¾	¼
North Eastern	164¾	⅞
North Stafford	111	15
South Eastern	129	31
Do. Def.	39½	¾
Taff Vale	77	80
FOREIGN RAILWAYS.		
Canada Pacific	76½	⅞
Cen. Pacific Shares	53⅜	⅞
Chic. Mil. and St. Pl.	69⅜	⅜
Denver & Rio Grande	15⅞	16⅛
Do. Preference	48¾	⅜
Illinois Shares	116½	17½
Lake Shore	107⅞	8
Louis & Nash.	87⅞	8½
Miss. Kan. & Texas 10	½ ass. pd.	
N.Y. Central Shares	108¼	9
New York Ontario	18¾	⅝
N.Y. & New England	39	⅜
Do. Second Mort.	103¼	¾
Norfolk & West. Pref	63	½
N.Y., P. & O. Int. M.	85	½
North Pacific Pref.	78¾	¼
Ohio & Mississippi	21¾	2¼
Pennsylvania Sh.	56	½
Phil. & Read. Sh.	20⅛	20⅜
Union Pacific Sh.	65⅞	6
Wabash Preferred	31¾	⅜
Do. Gen. Mort.	90	1
Wisconsin Cen.	11	⅜
Do. First Pref.	73½	⅜
Do. Second Pref.	50¼	⅜
Do. Third Pref.	28¼	⅜
Do. Guaranteed	77¾	⅜
Mexican Ordinary	37	¼
Do. First Pref.	117	½
Ob. do. 2nd Pref.	75	¼
Mexican Central	7⅜	¾
Mexican National	59	60
Lombardo-Venetian	12	¾
Nitrate Railway	12½	⅜
Taltal	4½	5½
B. Ayres & Rosario	166	70
Do. Great Southern	166	9
Central Argentine	68	70
S. Paulo (Bras.)	44	6
BANKS.		
Alliance Bank	14	15
City Bank	22	3
Colonial	39	72
Consolidated	8¾	¾
Imperial	19½	20½
Imperial Ottoman	11¼	⅜
London and Country	30	35
Lloyds	26½	7⅜
Lon. and Westmtr.	69	71
London Joint Stock	38½	9½
Nat. Prov. Bank	37½	8
Provincial of Ireland	24	5
Smrd. Bk. of S. A.	53	5
Union of London	40¾	1½
National Discount	11½	12
TRUSTS.		
Fin. & Cl. Gov. Df.	135	40
Gov. Stk. Invst. Df.	112	16
Lon. and N.Y. Inv.	7	½
Stock Conversion	134	½
South African Gold	2½	¾
Trus., Ex., & Sec.	6¼	¾
MINING & LAND.		
Indian Con. Gold	2/6	3/0
Mynore Gold	6⅛	¾xd
Oregum Gold	2 3/16	5/16
Cape Copper	3⅛	⅜
Namaqua	1⅜	2½
Mason & Barry	6 5/16	7/16
Rio Tinto	47⅜	⅝
Tharsis	4½	¾
Montana	1 5/16	7/16
New Beers	17¾	18
Graham Island	5½	6 —
New Jagersfontein	13½	14
City and Suburban.	7¾	⅛
Hamper's Gold	7¼	⅜
Jubilee	5	¼
Robinson	3¾	4
Salisbury	6¾	7¼
Sinsheim Gold	3	4
S. Afcn. Explorats.	20½	1¾
Do. New	2¾	¾pm
C. P. of Sth. Africa	4¾	⅜
Exploring Co.	16	17
Oceana Land	11	¾
Southern Land	par	¾pm
Transvaal Land	⅜	¾pm
TELEGRAPH & TELEPHONE		
Anglo-American	49	50
Do. Preferred	83	4
Brazilian Submarine	12¾	⅜
Direct United States	9⅜	10¼
Eastern	13⅜	14¼
Do. Extension	13⅜	⅜
Globe Telg. Trust	7⅞	⅛
National Telephone	4¾	5½
OMNIBUS AND TRAM		
Lon. Gen. Om.	155	95 xd
London Road Car.	5	5¼xd
Gaiety	134	13½
London Tramways	14¾	15¼
North Metropolitan	13¾	⅜
WATERWORKS.		
Chelsea Waterwks.	260	5
East London	211	15
Grand Junction	122	7
Kent	170	5
Lambeth	252	6
New River, New	150	9
Sthwk & Vxhall.	164	3
Tarapaca	10¾	11¼
West Middlesex	250	5 —
GAS AND ELECTRIC LIGHT		
Gaslight & Coke A	281	9 —
Imp. Continental	210	15
South Metropolitan	280	5 xd
Do. C	220	5 xd
Do. C	220	40 xd
London Electric	2¾	3¼
Metrpitan Electric	5¾	⅞
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Allsopp's	6¾	7 xd
Bell's Asbestos	11¼	⅜xd
Guinness and Co.	185	5 —
Hotchkiss	7	¼
Maxim-Nordenfelt.	2½	¾
Bryant and May	13¼	⅜
Eastman's Ord.	18¾	¼
Elmore's Copper, &c	6¾	¾
Spratt's Patent	6¾	7¼
Liverpool Nitrate	13	15 —
Colorado Nitrate	4	⅜
Primitiva Nitrate	14¾	15¼
Rosario	3	4
San Pablo	4	⅜
San Jorge	6	⅜
San Donato	3¾	⅜
Tamaragal	2	¼
Salt Union Shares	11½	¾
P. and O. Steam Def.	139	203
Royal Mail Steam	71	4
Hudson's Bay	30	¼
Suez Canal	81	⅜
E. & W. India Docks	16	18
Lon. & St. K. Dock	33	⅛

"Pall Mall Gazette Office."

FRIDAY MORNING.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* has occasionally felt bound to rebuke the *Star*, but it has always recognized the excellent work done by that lively little organ in counteracting the halfpenny Tory-cum-Unionist press in London. I am therefore very sorry, in the interests of London Radicalism, to learn that Mr. Massingham, the assistant editor, who has for some time borne the heat and burden of the day, has felt constrained, owing to differences with his chief, to tender his resignation. The resignation, if accepted by the proprietors, will, it is understood, take effect immediately.

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A good many rumours have been rife in journalistic circles as to the causes of the dispute. Mr. T. P. O'Connor, it will be remembered, declared the other day at Partick that he most strongly objected to the line taken by the *Star* on the Portuguese question. This declaration caused no little surprise, for it had always been understood that Mr. O'Connor was still, as at first, the working editor of the journal in question; but Mr. O'Connor's Partick declaration seemed to negative the popular supposition. It is not for an outsider to predict how the present crisis will end; but it is probable that if Mr. Massingham's resignation is accepted, the policy of the *Star* will undergo some modification. It would naturally tend to become more exclusively the organ of Home Rule for Ireland, and less the organ of militant and socialistic Radicalism for London.

***

I have just received a copy of the Stanley and Emin number of the *Illustrated London News*. It is a wonderful shillingsworth, and should have a very large sale. In an interview which appeared in these columns a week or two ago we described the difficulties which were encountered in preparing this "Special" for the public. Mr. Ingram sent one of his own men out to Zanzibar, and these sketches are the result. They are the sops to Cerberus pending the return of Mr. Stanley from Cairo. Every page contains a thrillingly vivid representation of some incident in Stanley's travels. Here we see him showing his followers the promised land beyond the great forest; and here are battles and camps; here Emin and Casati are landing at Weré, on the Albert Nyanza.

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One of the most interesting pictures is Lieutenant Stairs's sketch made on the high spurs of the Mountains of the Moon. Another is the same officer's admirable representation of Fort Bodo, in which Stanley's column was left when the explorer returned to Yambuya. The original sketches are by Stairs, Nelson, and Jephson, whose work has lost nothing of its vigour and originality in the accomplished hands of Mr. Walter Wilson, Mr. Forestier, Mr. Overend, Mr. Lucien Davis, and the various members of Mr. Ingram's staff.

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There could be no doubt in the mind of any one in court that the finding of the jury in the case of Darbishire *v.* Darbishire and Baird yesterday, came as a surprise to Sir James Hannen. Rightly or wrongly, he had directed them in almost so many words to refuse damages, on the ground that Mr. "Abington" Baird was to be believed when he denied all knowledge of the fact that Miss Agnes Hewitt was a married woman. The jury were not there to punish immorality, he said; nor were they there to consider the wealth or position of the offender. They consulted together for just three minutes, and promptly gave the petitioner £500.

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Sir James Hannen displayed little of his usual urbanity when Mr. Middleton rose and, with bated breath, asked for a decree nisi. "What more are you asking?" he exclaimed angrily. "I should think you've got all you can expect." Then Mr. Inderwick rose to mention costs. "Is there any more to be said?" asked Sir James. "I am bound by the finding of the jury, and the verdict must have its logical consequences." With these words he left the court.

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The Welsh service to-night in St. Paul's Cathedral on St. David's eve is quite a new departure. Women singers will be a novelty at St. Paul's, and the Bishop of St. Asaph will, no doubt, rise to the occasion and deliver a sermon which will arouse the national sympathies of the inhabitants of the Principality, who, in the murky metropolis, long for the associations of their ancient mountains and lovely vales. "Our youngest Bishop" is a kindly and generous Prelate, who, only last Sunday, hearing of a clergyman being ill near St. Asaph, went unasked and took nearly the whole of the services himself before going to fulfil a preaching engagement at a considerable distance.

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Can it be that the judicial authorities endorse the criticisms of the Liberal party as to the worth of a politically-appointed judge? An old custom has been revived for the special benefit of Mr. Justice Lawrance, who to-day at half-past ten was formally sworn in before Lord Coleridge in the Lord Chief Justice's Court. For many years past it has been thought sufficient simply to swear in a judge before the Lord Chancellor. That sufficed in the case of Mr. Justice Vaughan Williams, for example, a month ago. Is this precaution deemed insufficient in the case of the newest judge? Whatever the reason for reviving the old ceremony may be, however, Mr. Justice Lawrance will have to be sworn in by his "Chief" to-day before he will be allowed to take his seat at the side of "Brother" Cave.

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By the death of the Rev. A. Van Ware, which is announced from Winchester county, U.S.A., the last link is broken that bound the living present to an interesting page in the dead past. Mr. Van Wart's father was one of the captors of Major André, whose short but brilliant career as a soldier ended by his being hanged for being a "spy," and to whom a monument was erected in Westminster Abbey, where his remains were also interred forty years after his death.

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A singularly adventurous life (writes a correspondent) has just closed: "Jack" Colborne died at Cairo on the 13th inst., and none who enjoyed his acquaintance will have aught but a good word to say of this soldier of fortune, who was on Hicks Pasha's staff when that general commanded the Soudan Field Force during the Egyptian war. The Honourable "Jack," whom the Khedive decorated for his services in that campaign, was a retired major of the 60th Rifles, and had served in the Crimea, in India, and in China. His father was the celebrated Field-Marshal Lord Seaton, who got his barony in recognition of his eminent services in the Peninsular War and his spirited conduct at Waterloo. In fact, it has always been understood that, at the head of the 52nd Light Infantry, he selected the psychological moment for his forward movement against "Boney's" troops, and so secured that glorious victory for us.

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When the Honourable "Jack" left our service he went to Egypt—or, maybe, chronologically speaking, first to Constantinople, where he was much *en évidence* some ten or twelve years ago. He had a taste, but unfortunately very little capacity, for writing, and contributed, in a certain sense, much interesting gossip to one or two of the London weekly papers, whose editors must have had almost as much difficulty in deciphering his staggering hieroglyphics as if they had been in the Chinese or Russian character.

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The Bishop of Bangor, who has announced his intention of resigning, is in his seventy-ninth year, and was the eldest bishop by consecration, having succeeded Dr. Bethell in 1857. The late Earl of Derby asked the then bishops of the other Welsh Sees to submit to him the name of a clergyman who in their opinion was best qualified for the See who could speak Welsh. Of the three so nominated Dr. Campbell was chosen, mainly owing, it was understood, to the influence of the late Lord Penrhyn, who, himself a Scotchman, naturally favoured one hailing from across the Tweed. The Bishop of Bangor has ministered acceptably in Welsh at confirmations and in the pulpit, though he is no preacher. He has seen the Cathedral rise from ruins to a stately structure, he was the first Bishop to hold conferences of the clergy and laity, and he has thoroughly organized the diocese. He was a strong Conservative and a great admirer of old-fashioned ways; but he was a kindly and liberal prelate, whose name will long be affectionately remembered by Nonconformists as well as Churchmen in North Wales.

Broad's Pianos—25 per cent. discount for cash, or 10s. per month (Second-hand 10s. 6d. per month on the three years' system. Illustrated lists free or CHAS. STILES and CO., 64, SOUTHAMPTON ROW, HOLBORN, W.C. Pianos exchanged.

INDIVIDUALISM VERSUS SOCIALISM.

LETTER FROM PROFESSOR HUXLEY.

The Liberal Social Union held a successful soirée last night at the rooms of the Royal Society of British Artists, Suffolk-street, Pall-mall. Every one may not have heard of this Union. It was formed in 1873, and owes its origin to a desire which had long been felt for some organization by means of which thinkers of every school might have pleasant opportunities of meeting for the purpose of social and friendly discussion. The object is promoted chiefly by means of conversaziones, discussions, lectures, and other social meetings. There is a monthly conversazione, at which a paper usually is read, followed by discussion. It was one of these conversaziones that took place last night, when one of the Scotch members, Dr. Clark, opened a discussion, at which Mr. Sidney Webb presided, on "Individualism *v.* Socialism." A more interesting event followed, when the secretary read the following letter from Professor Huxley:—

4, Marlborough Place, Abbey Road, N.W., Feb. 6, '90.

Dear Sir,—I am sorry to say that I am incapacitated, partly by the deafness which is growing upon me, and partly by a curious liability to become rapidly fatigued and voiceless by talking, from accepting the invitation with which you honour me, on behalf of the Liberal and Social Union.

I need hardly say that the topic to be discussed at your meeting interests me profoundly, and I trust that the result of the discussion may be the mutual annihilation of the *à priori* bigots on both sides, and the conclusion that experience of the facts and necessities of human life points to and justifies a middle course.—I am, dear sir, yours very truly, T. H. HUXLEY.

An animated discussion thereupon ensued. Afterwards a musical programme was submitted, under the direction of Mr. Aldebert Allen, those contributing being the Allen family, Mdme. M. Chambers, and Mr. John Radcliffe.

"PARNELLISM AND CRIME," AND ITS COMPILER.

The author or compiler of "Parnellism and Crime," Mr. Woulfe Flanagan (the London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* hears), will come up for election at the Athenæum on Monday next. The pamphlet is at the present time by no means easy to procure. No copy of it exists in the library of the House of Commons. At one time there was a copy in the Reform Club library, but such is no longer the case. It has been lost, or has been "conveyed," to adopt the classic phrase of Falstaff.

MRS. GLADSTONE AND THE ARMENIANS.

Although the music was good, Mrs. Gladstone was certainly the chief centre of interest at the concert organized by the Armenian ladies of London at the Prince's Hall last night. And this was the case in a function which boasted such diverse patronesses as the Duchess of Argyll and Lady Sandhurst, Lady Randolph Churchill and Lady Playfair, Countess Granville and Mrs. James Bryce. Mrs. Gladstone, who appeared in deep russet velvet, carried a dainty bouquet of red, white, and green flowers and foliage—the national colours of the Armenian Patriotic Cause. Mrs. Gladstone was accompanied by Mr. Henry Gladstone and party. She listened with evident appreciation to the singing of Miss Liza Lehmann, Miss Ida Agabeg, Fräulein Gutjahr, Signor Luigi Mhanes, and Mr. Henry Bailey, who, between them, sang songs mostly by modern ballad writers. M. Tivadar Nachez fiddled his usual pieces in his accustomed style. Mr. Oscar Beringer played solos on the pianoforte, and the chief burden of the accompaniments was borne by Mr. Frantzen and Mr. Raphael Roche. Young Henry Irving gave two recitations in excellent style. His selections last night were in a sombre key, his choice falling on the painful "Erl King" legend and Whyte-Melville's "Gladiators." The hall was very fairly full, and the concert closed at a reasonable hour.

LORD RANDOLPH CHURCHILL AS A MARTYR TO TEMPERANCE.

The London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* declares that the reports of Lord Randolph Churchill's licensing bill have lost for the author the support of his former chairman at Birmingham, Mr. Satchell Hopkins, who was so long connected with the brewery business of Messrs. Threlfall established at Salford and Liverpool.

AN "AT HOME" AT EXETER HALL.

The passage and several of the large rooms in Exeter Hall were thronged last night with a crowd of young men and women, members and non-members of the Christian Associations who had met to enjoy themselves at the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Derby Allcroft. The programme was sufficiently varied to suit all tastes, beginning as it did with light refreshments, and ending with an address by the Rev. W. R. Mowll, while between there were recitations and music by the visitors themselves. In addition, an adjoining room held a collection of portrait sketches and miscellaneous articles which were a great attraction. The largest number of young men and maidens stood round an electric coil, placed on a table in front of large portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone. The sketches, although well worthy of notice, certainly did not please them so much as some of those lately invented little machines, but this was not the case with a cleverly executed drawing of the front pages of several daily papers and *Punch* intermingled in picturesque confusion with theatre, tram, and railway tickets.

WHAT THE KAISER'S PROGRAMME REFERS TO.

The programme attached to the invitation to the Labour Conference at Berlin refers only to regulations for Sunday labour and the work of women and children.

A CHORISTERS' PROTECTION SOCIETY.

The success of the chorus and ballet in their proceedings against Messrs. Barnum and Bailey is likely to end in some kind of Choristers' Protection Society, the exact scope of which has not yet been arranged. A small fund, however, has been subscribed, and a number of gentlemen interested have the matter sufficiently in train to be able in a few days to publish details.

ARRANGING FOR A PEACE CONGRESS IN LONDON.

At the International Parliamentary Congress which was held in Paris last year, it was decided that the next congress should meet in London, and the eleven English representatives who had taken part in the Paris meeting were deputed to make arrangements. The object of these congresses is to promote arbitration between the nations. The English Committee comprises the Hon. P. Stanhope (chairman), Mr. Schwann (treasurer), Mr. Cremer (secretary), Mr. W. H. James, Mr. O'Kelly, Sir W. Lawson, Mr. P. O'Brien, Mr. Channing, Mr. Burt, Dr. Clark, and Mr. Fenwick. Nine of these hon. gentlemen attended a meeting at Mr. Stanhope's house last evening, and decided that the London Congress should be held on the 21st and 22nd July next. Members of the Committee have already subscribed £110 towards the expenses. A distinguished English statesman has been invited to preside at the Congress.

MR. SPURGEON.

The pastor of the Metropolitan Tabernacle is again laid aside by his old enemy. In consequence of a severe attack of gout in his left hand, from which he was suffering acute pain, he was unable to preach last night, and his place was taken by the Rev. Mr. Mackey. It is hoped, however, that Mr. Spurgeon will be sufficiently well to conduct Sunday's services.

THE PUNISHMENT OF CONTUMACIOUS CLERKS.

The *Record* says that the Archbishop of York will be asked to introduce in the Upper House the bill substituting deprivation for imprisonment in the case of contumacious clerks. The measure, a very short one, has been drawn by Lord Grimthorpe, who has obtained promises of support from the Bishops of London, Peterborough, and Gloucester and Bristol.

THE MISSIONARIES AND THE PRINCE.

There is great indignation felt in Calcutta that money publicly subscribed for the reception of his Royal Highness Prince Albert Victor should have been wasted on the nautches or dancing girls. The Bishop of Calcutta (Dr. Johnson) refused to go to the entertainment at which they were to perform. The *Indian Witness* justly protests against Christian missionaries having been made unwittingly to subscribe to this monstrosity of immorality.—*British Weekly*.

WHERE ARE THE FORGED LETTERS?

With reference to a question as to what has become of the forged letters, it is stated that they have reverted to the possession of the *Times*. When put in evidence they were taken charge of by Mr. Cunynghame, the secretary to the Commission, and locked up with other papers in his strong box. But they were not impounded in the legal sense of the term, and being unquestionably the property of the *Times* were at the conclusion of the case returned to their custody.

The death is announced of Mr. Thomas White, who, with the exception of an interval of about eighteen months, had been a member of the Corporation of the City of London for a period of fifty years.

A WEEKLY HALF-HOLIDAY.

SIR JOHN LUBBOCK'S NEW BILL.

A subject of very widespread interest is Sir John Lubbock's proposal with regard to a weekly half-holiday for shops. His bill would place the discretion as to establishing a holiday in the hands of a majority of two-thirds of the occupiers of shops of any class of trade within any area. According to this scheme, the order requiring all shops within the area to be closed early on the half-holiday would be made by the local authority, which would also first see that the application had been signed by the requisite number of occupiers. Should any question arise as to the classification of shops, or as to whether any particular shop is included in a class, the Local Government Board would decide it. Any day in the week might be selected for the holiday, but the hour chosen for compulsory closing must not be earlier than two o'clock. The compulsory order might be made to apply to the whole year or to a part of it only. When it has once been made it is provided that the local authority may be induced, by a minority consisting of more than one-third of the occupiers of shops of the class, to revoke it; but the authorities are not obliged to act in this way. The *maximum* penalty for contravening the enactment is fixed at a fine of £5; and to this the occupier's servant or agent who commits the offence is made liable as well as the occupier himself. However, the latter can exculpate himself if he shows it was done without his knowledge, consent, or connivance, or wilful neglect or default. A prosecution is not permitted unless the consent is obtained of the chief officer of police in the place, or of two justices of the peace, or of the stipendiary magistrate; but it is made the duty of each chief officer of police to cause the measure to be enforced throughout his area. Even a barber's shop is included in the term shop. Although a chemist is permitted to sell medicines or drugs during prohibited hours, he is not allowed to keep his shop open. In the City of London the local authority to which jurisdiction is given is the Common Council; elsewhere in the metropolis it is the County Council; and outside London the urban or rural sanitary authority.

THE MANUFACTURE OF DYNAMITE GUNS.

The Graydon dynamite gun and torpedo-thrower (15in. calibre, and throwing 600 lb. of dynamite a distance of three miles), now being built by Messrs. Taunton, Delmard, Lane, and Co., of Heneage-street, Birmingham, has just been inspected by deputations of officers representing the Japanese War Board and the Roumanian Government. There are five European Governments now awaiting the completion of this 15in. dynamite gun—viz., Russia, Turkey, Spain, Italy, and Roumania—and the work is being pushed forward with a view to have a practical demonstration of the working of the gun under the auspices of the English Government. Lieutenant Graydon, under whose immediate supervision the work is being carried on, hopes to succeed in doubling the range attained by the Zalinski gun and in making his weapon handy for training and elevating, the extreme length and unwieldiness of the Zalinski being one of the great obstacles to the adoption of that type of dynamite gun. A statement has recently gone the round of the papers that the British Government has purchased the Zalinski gun, and is having fifty built at Woolwich. Lieutenant Graydon informs us that his syndicate has received from the War Office a direct contradiction of this rumour.

MR. LOCKWOOD'S LATEST CARTOON.

Mr. Lockwood, Q.C., M.P., has produced an admirable representation of "The Race for the Treasury Bench" between Mr. Bradlaugh and Mr. Chamberlain, which was indicated by Lord Randolph Churchill in his speech on the eight hours question last Monday. The picture is a spirited and humorous presentment of the burly member for Northampton and the agile form of the right hon. member for West Birmingham, attired in the costume of the cinder-path, and running neck-and-neck for the desired goal. There were many aspirants for the possession of the sketch, but Mr. Lockwood was obdurate. It is reserved for Lord Randolph Churchill himself.—London correspondent, *Manchester Examiner*.

THE ARCHBISHOP TO PREACH AT THE "VIC."

The Archbishop of Canterbury will preach at the Royal Victoria Hall Waterloo-road, on Sunday evening at seven.

LIVING WITH A KNIFE BLADE IN HIS BRAIN.

Last evening Mr. Wynne Baxter, coroner for East London, held an inquiry at the London Hospital respecting the death of William Benjamin Rowland, aged thirty-eight, a carman, late in the employ of Messrs. Macnamara, and lately residing at 69, Brady-street, Whitechapel. On the 20th July last deceased was driving a pair-horse van when one of the horses shied and deceased was pitched off his "dickey" on to his head. Deceased did not have a knife in his hand. He was admitted on Sunday into the London Hospital as a case of kidney disease, and was afterwards found to be suffering from phthisis. The post-mortem examination showed that the condition of the brain was normal. On opening the head there was found part of the blade of a knife protruding through the left side of the temporal bone about an inch. The brain was uninjured, the blade having passed between the convolutions of the brain. It must have been there some considerable time, as the bone had healed on the surface, and there were no marks on the skull. The coroner said that it was a most remarkable case, and was very similar to one which came to his notice about two years ago, when he held an inquest on a young man who had lived for years with a steel penholder firmly embedded in his brain. A verdict in accordance with the medical evidence was returned.

SUNDAY CLOSING IN WALES.

The Royal Commission on Sunday Closing in Wales have concluded their deliberations, and agreed upon their report. They find the Act has not been a conspicuous success, and make recommendations for restricting Sunday drinking at clubs, railway stations, and under cover of being bona-fide travellers.

ENGLISH FOOTBALLERS DEFEATED IN FRANCE.

An international football team, comprising, among others, six English players, was beaten yesterday in the Bois de Boulogne, in a match against a French team from the Janson Desailly College.

THE L.C.C. LICKING ITSELF INTO SHAPE.

"The members of the London County Council," writes the London correspondent of the *Manchester Examiner*, "are not getting along with their work in a manner entirely satisfactory to themselves, and it is to-day to be a meeting of the members of the Progressive party to-morrow, which in itself means to be an admission that a feeling of that kind exists and that matters are not going smoothly. One difficulty is the division of committee into sub-committees, which the members do not attend sufficiently often to get through the increasing and accumulating work. Then again the number of subjects which have to be dealt with by the Council, and the impossibility of members making themselves acquainted with all the different subjects on which they have to vote, often leads them to vote hastily and unadvisedly, or perhaps not at all. It is admitted, too, that more foresight is necessary than at present exercised by members in the matters of finance. What the Progressive party desire, and what they will endeavour to bring about at their meeting is an organization such as exists in the House of Commons, so that both parties on the Council can be in communication with each other through their representative whips thereby preventing hasty and inconsiderate voting and needless party disputes."

The Queen has accepted the dedication of Dr. Bridge's oratorio, "The Repentance of Nineveh."

Mr. J. Parker Smith, the newly chosen representative in the Liberal Unionist interest of the Partick division of Lanarkshire, was yesterday elected a member of the Reform Club.

Mr. Cuninghame Graham, though he has been for some time in communication with his friends at Greenock, has not yet decided to contest that constituency at the next election.

A report which has been published that the Master of the Rolls intends to resign his seat on the bench at the ensuing Easter vacation is entirely without foundation. Lord Esher is in excellent health.

It is rumoured that the right of Miss Cobden and Miss Cons to sit and vote as aldermen in the London County Council is to be challenged in the Law Courts. The penalty is fifty pounds for each occasion of voting.

The roll of the Lords spiritual and temporal, which has just been issued as a parliamentary paper, shows a total number of 561 peers. Nine peers are, however, named twice in the roll, so that the actual number is 552. A vacancy exists in the representation of the peers for Ireland, due to the death of Viscount Templetown.

READERS LEAVING HOME TEMPORARILY can have the PALL MALL GAZETTE forwarded at the following rates:—Two weeks, 3s.; four weeks, 5s. SATURDAY'S SPECIAL EDITION posted in time for delivery in the COUNTRY on SUNDAY MORNING, forwarded for 8s. 6d. per annum. Address, The Publisher, *Pall Mall Gazette* Office, Northumberland-street, Strand, W.C.

THE CITY CORPORATION AND MR. STANLEY.

At a meeting of the Court of Common Council yesterday, Mr. Deputy Halse read a letter from Mr. H. M. Stanley, from Cairo, as to the date of the presentation to him of the freedom of the City. It was as follows:—"Villa Victoria, Cairo, February 6.—Dear Sir,—I propose hanging your note in a conspicuous place to ensure my being reminded of my duty to inform you first of the minute I decide upon leaving Cairo. I shall cable a message which will be decisive within a day or two of my arrival in London. Being a citizen of London (if you please), I have a close fellow feeling with the other citizens. At the present time I expect I shall reach London between the 15th and 20th April. I have a vast amount of things to do besides attending to callers, who really occupy the best part of my days. I have scores of letters daily, and have to arrange my notes in order that I may begin my journal.—Yours faithfully, H. M. STANLEY."

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING.

LORD WANTAGE ON THE NEW WIMBLEDON.

The annual general meeting of the National Rifle Association was held yesterday at the Royal United Service Institution. What the meeting lacked in quantity it made up in quality. Lord Wantage, in place of the Duke of Cambridge, presided, being supported by the Duke of Westminster, Lords Wemyss, Wharncliffe, and Waldegrave, Sir Henry Fletcher, Sir Henry Halford, General Philip Smith, Colonel Burt, Colonel Marden, Majors Flood Page, Knox, Fixley, &c. The noble chairman moved the adoption of the report, and said it was just a year since they had made the announcement that Bisley Heath was to be the new Wimbledon. They had erected with the aid of the military—sometimes 1,000 soldiers being at work at the Heath on one day—158 ranges, most of which would be available up to 1,100 yards. Further ranges up to 2,000 yards could be made, and of course there were already sporting and revolver ranges. Major J. F. Brown had been the engineer. Bisley had this advantage—that ordinary small class-firing could be carried on without interfering with the ranges reserved for the annual summer meeting. The Heath was admirably adapted for field practice. The Government no longer offered any inducement to men in "camps of exercise" to attend morning and evening drill, looking after their business in the daytime. So that there was no reason why such camps—now of course of a more informal character as those which had obtained at Wimbledon—should be just outside big towns. Lord Wantage argued that everywhere the desire for training young fellows in military discipline is springing up in public and other schools, and among medical men and denominational leaders. The Presbyterian Churches of England and Scotland, for instance, had adopted military organisation for schools in which there were 17,000 boys. (Hear, hear.) There would be various modifications in the rules and regulations, such as the abolition of orthoptics. It was the duty of the association to point out to the military leaders of the country any improvements noticed at the meetings. In laying out Bisley Heath as a Champs de Mars—as a national military training ground and as shooting ranges—the limited funds of the Association had been exhausted, and appeal was to be made to the Lord Mayor to hold a meeting in the Mansion House, and to the City companies to help with contributions. Sir H. Fletcher seconded. A long discussion followed about finances, orthoptics, prizes, competitions, &c., carried on by Captain Barnett, Quartermaster Gratwicke, Private Lowe, Private Fulton (Queen's Prize winner), and others.

THE IMPENDING CRISIS IN THE COAL TRADE.

Notices were yesterday given in on behalf of 13,000 miners in Nottingham for a 10 per cent. advance, which they urge they are entitled to by the present price of coal. At several collieries it is stated that negociations for satisfactory arrangements are in progress, but the full 10 per cent. has not in any instance yet been granted. The approaching crisis is being regarded with considerable anxiety.

A conference on the subject of colliers' wages is to take place between the Colliery Owners' Federation and representatives of the Miners' National Federation, at the Westminster Palace Hotel next Tuesday afternoon.

CHURCH SCHOOLS COMPETITION.

The eighth ordinary general meeting of the Church Schools Company (Limited) was held yesterday in the Church House, Dean's-yard. The report in their report stated that the total receipts from school fees amounted to £23,445, the expenditure on schools to £22,481. After providing for the expenses of administration there was an available sum of £1,370.

Lord Norton, who presided, said that one of the most important objects of the company was to provide a sound intermediate education in this country. A mean had set in for what was called technical education. That, in his opinion, meant chiefly the training of skilled apprentices at the public expense. It was difficult for self-supported schools to compete with this provision of schools by absolutely unlimited taxation, both local and imperial. Public schools, he said, did not supply that which their company schools did. It had been proved that the kind of education their schools supplied was not only superior but more adjusted to present requirements.

The Ven. Archdeacon Emery, the chairman of the council, in moving the adoption of the report, gave a very flourishing account of the work done by the company's schools. They had spent some twenty-eight millions of money during past years in trying—and not, he ventured to think, in vain—to establish schools which would give a distinctly religious education.

The report was adopted, and a dividend at the rate of 2½ per cent. was declared.

CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES.

A parliamentary paper was published yesterday of estimates for the Civil Service and Revenue departments, for which a vote on account is required for the next financial year. The estimates for the year amount to £26,803,968, of which a vote on account is now required of £3,725,103, including £300,000 for Irish constabulary and £800,000 for English public examination.

DEATH OF LORD DACRE.

The death was announced yesterday of Lord Dacre, which occurred at The Hoo, near Luton, at the age of eighty-two years. He had made arrangements to move to his London house last week, when he was seized with a sudden illness. The deceased, who sat in the Liberal interest for Hertfordshire from 1847 to 1852, leaves no issue, and the title reverts to his brother, Viscount Hampden.

SALFORD CORPORATION AND MR. ELLIS LEVER.

The corporation of Salford yesterday asked a divisional court to strike out a paragraph in the plea of Mr. Ellis Lever, who is being sued to recover the amount of commission paid to Mr. Hunter, late gasworks manager to the plaintiffs, on the ground that the price of coal was thereby increased to the corporation by one shilling a ton. The plea asked to be struck out was one alleging that Hunter had paid the money to the corporation, and that the corporation had agreed to hold in trust for Hunter any money recovered from the defendant. Their lordships refused to strike out the plea, dismissed the application with costs.

FAILURE OF COMPANY PROMOTERS.

Yesterday, at the London Bankruptcy Court, a meeting was held before Mr. Registrar Brougham, for the public examination of W. C. and A. L. Elborough, company promoters, late of 58, Lombard-street, trading as Elborough and Co. The debtors have been largely engaged promoting public companies. The joint accounts show gross debts £18,056, of which £9,926 is unsecured, and assets £44,895. The separate accounts of A. L. Elborough show debts unsecured £13,203, and assets £34,707. The separate accounts of W. C. Elborough show gross debts £40,139, of which £13,971 is unsecured, the assets being unascertained. After some discussion the public examination was adjourned.

HEAVY DAMAGES AGAINST BICYCLE AGENTS.

In the Queen's Bench yesterday, the case of the Rudge Cycle Company of Coventry against Messrs. Stoddart, Lovering, and Co., of Bradford, England, and of Boston, United States, to recover damages in consequence of the defendants throwing up without notice the sole agency for the plaintiffs in the United States and selling to a rival firm the stock they held belonging to the plaintiff, which has occupied Baron Huddleston and a special jury for several days, concluded with a verdict for the plaintiffs, damages £5,000.

A BETTING MAN SENT TO PRISON.

At Wolverhampton yesterday Henry Pearson, alias William Riley, described as a betting man, of various addresses at Manchester, Liverpool, and Birmingham, was sentenced to three months' hard labour for obtaining money by fraud. Prisoner was at Dunstall Park steeplechases yesterday, where, in concert with another man, he made bets with a number of people on one of the races, and just before the finish prisoner's confederate disappeared with the money.

THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY OF AUTHORS.

The annual meeting of the members of this society was held yesterday at Willis's Rooms, under the presidency of Mr. Walter Besant. Among those present were Dr. B. W. Richardson, Mr. Rider Haggard, Mr. Edmund Gosse, Mr. Walter Pollock, Mr. R. Field, Mrs. Lynn Linton, Mr. A. Gatt Ross, Mr. Middleton Wake, Mr. John Coleman, Mr. E. B. Kennedy, Mr. Stanley Little, and Miss M. Blind. The chairman said he had received letters of apology from Sir F. Pollock and Professor Bonny, who were unable to be present. From the report it appeared that 146 new members had been elected during the year, and there had been six losses by death. Then the report said:—"We have had occasion during the past years to advise authors, by advertisements in the public press, not to sign any agreement, without consulting the society, which contains, as an integral part of the agreement, the alleged cost of production. The reason is that a wide door to fraud is opened by entering the cost of production in the body of the agreement. Whatever figures are thus set down—we have had cases where actually double the real cost had been advanced!—the author approves by signing the agreement. After this he only gets the agreement set aside by a long and doubtful process, proving that the cost alleged was above that actually charged. We have now a paper warning to give. It has come under our notice that certain publishers are endeavouring to persuade unwary authors to bind themselves down to a pledge that no other house shall publish their works. This is exactly as if one should promise a lawyer that, no matter how dishonestly he might behave, no one else shall manage his affairs. Yet some authors have been so foolish and so ill-advised as to accede to this request." The chairman now called attention to the number of cases in which proceedings might have been taken to recover money but for the reluctance of authors to give evidence. Mr. Walter Pollock moved the adoption of the report, which was seconded by Mr. A. Ross, and passed. A vote of thanks to the chairman brought the proceedings to a close.

A PENNY A WEEK FOR THE HOSPITALS.

Lord Compton presided at the Holborn Town-hall last evening at a meeting to consider the penny-a-week collection towards the Hospital Saturday Fund. The proceedings were rather noisy, owing to the refusal of the chairman to put to the meeting an amendment, which, he said, introduced controversial matter affecting politics and social life in London. On the motion of Mr. Gainsford Bruce, M.P., a motion was carried in favour of working men taking part in the administration of hospitals and dispensaries, and of opening those institutions to out-patients in the evening.

THE CLAIM OF THE WELSH ON JESUS COLLEGE.

At the private meeting of Welsh members held yesterday in the Committee Room of the House of Commons, Mr. Stuart Rendel submitted draft resolutions containing in succinct form the history and present position of the claim of Wales for £20,000 out of the Hewitt endowment now held by Jesus College, Oxford. The resolutions were unanimously adopted, and it was agreed that copies of them should be forwarded to the Principal of Jesus College and the First Lord of the Treasury. Another resolution was passed asking Mr. Smith to afford facilities for discussing the matter in the House of Commons.

OYSTER FISHERS UP IN ARMS.

Sir R. Rawlinson's proposed scheme for dealing with the sewage of London by carrying it through a part of South Essex, and discharging it into the German Ocean is creating genuine alarm among those who are interested in the extensive oyster fisheries in the rivers Crouch, Roach, and Blackwater. It is felt that if the scheme is adopted and carried into effect it will exterminate the oyster in these rivers and ruin an industry which now gives employment to hundreds of people. At a meeting of oyster merchants, owners of oyster layings, and dredgermen, held at Burnham, it was resolved that a strenuous opposition be offered to the scheme, that a memorial pointing out the ruin it would entail be sent to the London County Council; and a deputation was appointed to wait upon that body.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

The purely orchestral pieces at the 105th college concert last night were Mozart's symphony in E flat, Wagner's concert arrangement of the prelude and death scene from "Tristan und Isolde," and Délibes's "Ballet de Sylvia." The symphony went extremely well; the delightful andante, so strongly reminiscent of the "Don Giovanni" music, being particularly well played; and Délibes's ballet was given with all due piquancy. It was in the "Tristan" selection, however, that the orchestra made its chief success. Miss Annie Grimson played the solo part in Scharwenska's pianoforte concerto in B minor—a work which we do not remember to have heard before, and which we are certainly not anxious to hear again. It recalls the worst extravagances of the Liszt-and-Tausig period, and in the orchestral movements, it has, strictly speaking, no right to the title of concerto. Miss Grimson struggled manfully with an ungrateful task. Miss Ruth Elvidge was somewhat overweighted in "Eccomi al fin," from "Semiramide"; and the choral class sang part-songs by Smart and Stafford Smith in acceptable style. Dr. Stanford conducted.

THE STRANGE CASE OF CANON BAYNES.

Yesterday morning Mr. Crawshaw, solicitor, appeared before Mr. Vaughan at the Bow-street police-court and referred to the case of Canon Baynes, who should have appeared on Wednesday to answer a charge of being drunk and disorderly in Wellington-street the previous evening. Mr. Crawshaw said the defendant had not appeared to his recognizances. The new canon had been known to Mr. Crawshaw for a number of years, and he had requested Mr. Crawshaw to apologize for his non-attendance. It was out of no disrespect to the court, but he was suffering from a severe attack of heart asthma, and it had been arranged that he should attend the court that day. He was not present, and Mr. Crawshaw could only say that he was ill in the orchestral stalls of a concert, and suggested that he was so suffering on the night he was arrested. Mr. Vaughan said he could not possibly have taken the case, and added that a summons had already been issued against the defendant to show cause why his bail should not be estreated.

AMATEURS AT THE LYRIC CLUB.

The amateurs held undisputed possession of the Lyric Club stage last night, and a very "smart" company enjoyed their efforts without flinching, and probably with considerable satisfaction. The great army of singers included Mrs. Alison Johnson, Mr. Herman Herkomer, Lady Eleanor Harbord, Miss Amy Ward, the Hon. Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Coleridge, Mrs. George Batten, Mr. Gordon Hall, Captain Roger Caldbeck, Mrs. Salmond, Mr. J. G. O'Brien, Mr. Kinsey Piele, Mrs. Scott-Gatty, Baronne de Kerbreck, Mr. Frank Pownall, Mr. Robert Martin, and Miss Eva Leslie. The Viscount Glentworth danced an Irish jig; Miss Gladys Goldsmid and Mr. Colnaghi recited; and those who in turn presided at the piano included Mr. A. E. Dawson, Mr. Wilfrid Bendall, Mr. Randegger, Signor Ducci, and Miss Caroline Dawson.

FRANCE AND THE LABOUR CONFERENCE.

After a Cabinet Council held yesterday (a Paris telegram to Reuter says) M. Spuller, Minister for Foreign Affairs, received Count Munster, the German Ambassador, and in reply to his request, informed him officially to the Labour Conference to be held in Berlin, informed his Excellency that the French Government accepted it in principle. M. Spuller will confirm the acceptance on Saturday in a note to M. Herbette, the French Ambassador to Germany, in which the Minister will reply to the Note received from the German Chancellery on the subject of the Conference. M. Herbette will be authorized to read the Note to the Imperial Chancellor and leave a copy with him. The Note will set forth the views of the French Government on the questions to which, in their opinion, France's participation in the Conference gives rise, as well as on the programme to be submitted to it. The number and rank of the French representatives will only be determined after a previous understanding with the other Powers.

ATHLETICS AT ETON COLLEGE.

The school steeplechase, about three miles, was decided at Eton College yesterday, and was won by the Hon. R. A. Ward, by 40 yds. Nickalls was second, and Lewis third. Time, 18 min. 11 sec. The junior steeplechase was won by Ward, Chapman being second and Macnaghten third. Time, 15 min. 18⅘ sec.

IS THE RED MAN DYING OUT IN CANADA?

Last year's totals do not, it must be admitted, go to strengthen this contention. Here is a comparative statement bearing on the point:—

1870	129,581	1887	121,499
1885	129,525	1888	124,589
1886	128,761	1889	124,529

FINED £130 FOR ILLICIT LIQUOR TRAFFICKING.

At Worship-street police-court yesterday, James and Arthur Tresarden, brothers, were summoned by the excise authorities for the illicit sale of beer and spirits. The evidence showed that the defendants kept a house in which on several Sunday mornings ale and spirits were served, and it was stated that this had been going on for five years. The magistrate, observing that the defendants had persistently and deliberately defied the law, fined them in the full penalties of £130 each.

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Lieut.-Colonel Hamilton.
The Hon. and Rev. Henry Bligh, J.P. (Vicar of Hampton Hill).
Major Cordon Douglas (Thames Ditton).
Right Hon. Lord Headley.
Major Richards, Esq.
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The Club is proprietary, and members incur no responsibility beyond the payment of their annual subscriptions.
Members elected prior to the opening of the Club House will pay an entrance fee, and will be styled "Original Members." Their number shall not, however, exceed 400.
Members will not be called upon to pay their subscriptions until they are duly notified of the date of the opening of the Club House.
SUBSCRIPTION.—The rates of Subscriptions are as follows:—Members residing within three miles of the Club House, £5 5s. per annum; Members resident beyond that distance, £3 3s. per annum; Foreign and Colonial Members, £1 1s.
LADIES.—The Wives, Daughters and Sisters of Members, or their Nominees, duly passed, shall be eligible for election, in conformity with the then existing Rules of the Club. Subscription.—Lady Members resident within three miles of the Club House, £2 12s. 6d.; Lady Members resident beyond that distance, £1 11s. 6d.; Foreign and Colonial Lady Members, £1 1s.
THE CLUB HOUSE.—The Founders have acquired the beautiful old Mansion formerly occupied by the late Sir Charles Freake, Bart., and known as "Bank Grove," delightfully situate on the south side of its own charming and majestically timbered grounds of fifteen acres, with the main Richmond and London Road twelve miles from Charing-cross), having a river frontage of 420 ft., commanding most lovely and picturesque views. The Club House will stand on an elevated position, on sandy soil, and is approached from the main arterial road by a Park Club, Kempton Park Club, Hurst Park Club, and Wimbledon Park all in close proximity.
The house contains noble entrance-halls, dining, drawing, billiard, morning, billiard, and card rooms, a lofty smoking room, reading room, up to a balcony, and commanding splendid and diverse views of the river and down the gardens, and private dining rooms for the use of members and their friends.
CLUB DINNERS.—It is proposed to hold Monthly House Dinners for gentlemen only, to which members will be entitled to introduce one friend each.
RAMBLES.—It is proposed to have a Drawing-room Reception, one evening during the week of the Winter Months from 8 to 11 P.M., with Vocal and Instrumental Music by Lady and Gentleman Members of the Club, to which Members may introduce friends by Vouchers to be issued by the Committee appointed in conformity with the rules of the Club.
GARDEN PARTIES.—A limited number of afternoon garden parties will be held during the season for which a high-class military band will be retained, and members may introduce a limited number of friends by vouchers.
ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE.—The arrangements of the Drawing-room and Garden Parties will be under the direction of a Joint Committee of Lady and Gentlemen Members to be appointed, and which Committee will have the power of issuing the Vouchers admitting thereto.
THE GROUNDS.—The Grounds, comprising upwards of three acres, are so high above the river as to escape any possibility of flood. They contain groups of ancient elms and cedars of great size and magnificence.
It is intended to construct racquet courts and tennis lawns on the most improved plans.
STABLING.—Stabling, coach-house, and consists of stalls and loose-boxes for upwards of 20 horses, together with ample coach houses, harness rooms, &c., &c.
BOATING.—The club landing-stage will be direct from the river at the grounds of the club, affording facility to members in small craft or launches to visit the club. It is intended to keep for the use of members of the club a fleet of punts, skiffs, &c.
A club house boat will be provided for members at a moderate charge.
TRAIN SERVICE.—Kingston Station, S.W.Ry., is within half-mile of the Club House, and the main trains run frequently to Waterloo and Charing-cross, whilst from Surbiton Station, S.W.Ry., there is a convenient service of trains to all parts, and it is proposed to run a club omnibus to and from each station for members and their friends at a nominal fare.
Particulars and forms for original membership may be obtained from the Secretary, Albany Club, Bank-grove, Kingston-on-Thames, or from the Solicitors, Messrs. Gruggen and Co., 32, Craven-street, Charing-cross.
The Club will be opened for the reception of Members on the 25th March, 1890.

ROYAL UNITED SERVICE INSTITUTION.
The FIFTY-NINTH ANNIVERSARY MEETING will BE HELD in the THEATRE of the INSTITUTION TO-MORROW (Saturday). The Chair will be taken at Three o'clock, when the Report of the Referees on the "Naval Prize Essays" will be read and the Prizes will be presented.
By order of the Council.
BOUGHEY BURGESS, Captain, Secretary.

THE EARLSWOOD ASYLUM for IDIOTS, EARLSWOOD, REDHILL, Surrey.
The ANNUAL DINNER of this Charity will be held on WEDNESDAY, March 12th, at the Hôtel Métropole, Whitehall-place, W.C.,
ALFRED L. COHEN, Esq., in the Chair, supported by the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs.
There are now over 500 inmates in the Asylum. CONTRIBUTIONS are urgently REQUIRED to Defray the Current Expenses, and towards the Deficiency of £4,000 in the usual annual income.
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Bonuses large. Expenses Moderate. No Personal Liability.
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	Tons.	H.P.	
ORIENT	5,365 ..	8,000 ..	March 11
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Estd. 1835.

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